CUC to temporarily repair leaking sewer line in Susupe. PAGE 2
Board of Parole denies release for convicted murderer, 5 others. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CPA to implement cuts in hours

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in an effort to keep CNMI airports open in these trying times, will be cutting hours for all its employees across the board come fiscal year 2024.

See CPA on Page 4

ACG director: Change of law in China made casino project on Tinian impossible

Santos

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alter City Group Inc. director Johnny Leong said their casino gaming resort project on Tinian relied on both Chinese investors and tourists for the purpose of gambling, but Chi-

See ACG on Page 4

Kilili: Pause on federal student loan payments coming to an end

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

The pause on federal student loan payments authorized in response to COVID-19 pandemic is coming to an end, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter that student loan interest resumed last Friday and first payments are due beginning next month.

See KILILI on Page 4

Woman arrested for alleged involvement in smuggling over 4 lbs of methamphetamine

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was allegedly involved in smuggling over 4 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" into the CNMI through the United States Postal Service has been arrested.

Gao Xing Rui, a woman allegedly involved in a scheme

See WOMAN on Page 4

TRANSITION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores, the current PSS Special Program director, was congratulated by outgoing Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada last Friday afternoon, Aug. 31, on her appointment. Flores met with Ada as she formally takes on the additional role effective Sept. 2.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
25

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Extreme weather is replacing the pandemic as the determining factor in how well a summer will go for small businesses.
PAGE 11

OVERDRIVE
Given its origins, you can be excused for questioning the 2023 Ford Bronco Sport's off-road ability.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
The third installment in the Denzel Washington-led "Equalizer" franchise topped the domestic box office this weekend with $34.5 million
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Local

CUC to temporarily repair leaking sewer line in Susupe

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is going to start this week a temporary repair on a leaking sewer line near Susupe Mart in Susupe.

CUC Drinking Water and Wastewater Division deputy executive director Kevin Matson in an interview Friday said the temporary repair will give them more time to design and construct a permanent fix.

Watson said the permanent fix is replacing the manhole and that section of sewer line, which should occur in about six months because it will take a while to do the design work.

He also clarified that what's overflowing from the sewer line that causes a stenchy smell, is not human waste, but rainwater.

Last Aug. 23, speaking at a House of Representatives Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee meeting, Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) has underscored the need for the committee to either subpoena CUC officials or have them explain what they plan to do with the leaking sewer line in Susupe.

Castro said residents in the area can't even cut the grass beside the road because the sewer line is just toxic. He said people's wastes are seen floating over the residents' driveway and then it's going into the storm drain across the Susupe Mart.

Castro said the area turns into basically a centralized septic tank instead of a centralized sewer system.

Watson said they are going to make a temporary repair pipe with a 2-inch bypass using a 3-inch grinder pump and operate on a float switch in the manhole.

"So once the level comes up, the pump will pump it down and automatically, it will go bypass the collapsed line to the downstream manhole," Watson said.

He said their staff, along with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's, inspected the area after Saipan Tribune printed a news story about the leaking sewer line.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The grassy area where an overflow from a leaking sewer line on the shoulder of Tupak Street corner Chinhulu Avenue near Susupe Mart in Susupe, is causing a stenchy smell in the place. *Saipan Tribune* took this photo last Aug. 23.

Watson said before that, they come there and pump the sewer line out five to 10 times per day.

"They pump it out in the morning, and they get it to downstream manhole discharge. And they do that on a routine basis, not just there but in another area where we have a collapsed line as well," he said.

Watson said what's overflowing is not human waste but from heavy rain.

CUC Drinking Water and Wastewater Division acting chief engineer Larry Manacop said when there is heavy rain the manhole overflows.

Manacop said part of the sewer waste from those pipes will eventually mix with the rainwater.

He said it's very hard for human waste to float.

Manacop said a lot of these pipes are asbestos concrete pipes probably installed about 50 years ago.

The acting chief engineer said the initial estimate for the permanent fix is between $250,000 and $300,000.

Agreeing with Manacop's explanation, Watson said human waste is heavier so it's going to drop to the bottom of the manhole, and when the rainwater comes in, it is wider and is going to be at the top.

"That's what may come out of a manhole when the storm surge is coming through. That's rainwater," Watson pointed out.

He said that the stenchy smell is corrosive to the pipe, so a 50-year term degrades that pipe and that's what causes the collapse.

The deputy executive director said the temporary fix will not cost that much and CUC crew are going to do it this Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

CUC acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje said they're working on a temporary solution now that should help with the stench.

Terlaje said the permanent solution will probably be within six months as it takes time to work with contractors.

She said they invited Reps. Castro and John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), both representing Precinct 2, last Wednesday for a meeting to let them know their plans with the leaking sewer line.

Terlaje said they would also visit homes in the area and give them some information about CUC's plan.

She said they will pass out a little informational brochure that tells the household what's going on and CUC's plan.

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Board of Parole denies release for convicted murderer, 5 others

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole has denied the parole application of convicted murderer Randy Igisomar and five other applicants.

Last Thursday, the parole board denied the parole applications of Igisomar, Kui Zhang, Calixtro Crisostomo, Bradley Defang, Titomir Bhuiyan, and Derik Reyes following hours of deliberation.

Specifically, the board members are acting chair Lucinda Selepeo, Christopher Leon Guerrero, Anthony Macaranas, Francine Nekai, Ignacio Mendiola, George Hocog, and Vicente Borja.

The parole board held the parole hearings at the Department of Corrections.

Igisomar is currently serving a 22-year sentence for murder in the first degree.

Zhang pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance on Sept. 15, 2022, and was sentenced to serve five years in prison, all suspended except for three years.

Crisostomo is serving a five-year sentence for burglary and theft.

Defang, who pleaded guilty to one count of robbery on Jan. 17, 2021, was sentenced to serve 10 years' imprisonment, all suspended except five years.

Bhuiyan pleaded guilty to one count of kidnapping on April 8, 2015. The kidnapping incident occurred on Nov. 29-30, 2014. He was sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment with three years suspended.

Reyes is serving a five-year sentence for illegal possession of a controlled substance: methamphetamine.

According to a previous article on the Saipan Tribune, the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division strongly opposed granting parole to a convicted murderer Igisomar who was applying for early release from prison.

For Igisomar, who was convicted of murder back in 2012, OAG Criminal Division Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds said that serving only 11 years of his 22-year sentence is grossly inadequate for the heinous crime he committed.

"Inmate [pleaded] guilty and was sentenced to serve 22 years for the charges of murder in the first degree, committed during the perpetration of burglary and/or robbery. The inmate has served 11 years and another 11 years remain on this particularly heinous crime, the most serious offense we face as a society. Having served only 11 years is grossly inadequate considering his debt can never be repaid," he said.

Hinds said the OAG's position is that murder in the first degree demands significant incarceration.

"This type of deviant behavior demands significant incarceration to prevent the possibility of other acts of violence by this particular inmate, as well as to serve as a deterrent to others in the community that this type of behavior and crimes such as murder ul-

See PAROLE on Page 4

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Parole board recommends pardon for Taitingfong

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole unanimously voted in favor of recommending clemency for Jodan Santos Taitingfong, a man serving a 10-year sentence for beating and robbing a woman back in 2016.

Last Thursday, all seven Board of Parole members unanimously voted in favor of recommending clemency for Taitingfong, a man serving a 10-year sentence for beating and robbing a woman back in 2016.

The recommendation will be brought before Gov. Arnold I. Palacios who will ultimately decide to pardon Taitingfong from serving the rest of his 10-year sentence.

According to board member Christopher Leon Guerrero, he believes in allowing the governor to practice his authority to grant pardons for inmates.

"The governor is the only one who has the authority to grant pardon for prisoners so we want to limit our response to that in regards to this matter," he said.

In a comment from board member Ignacio Mendiola, he explained that whatever the board decides in terms of granting clemency, the CNMI governor may issue an independent decision on the matter.

"Under the constitutional authority of the CNMI governor regarding applicants seeking clemency in the form of a pardon, the governor actually concurs with the CNMI Board of Parole and their position in regards to granting clemency for applicants. However, the governor has unilateral authority. This means the sitting governor can make their independent decision despite the board's recommendation. It's a checks and balances system," he said.

The matter has since been forwarded to Gov. Palacios who will make the final decision on whether or not to grant Taitingfong's request for a pardon or not.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, back in 2016, police arrested Taitingfong for beating a Chinese masseuse during a robbery inside her room at Micro Beach Hotel in western Garapan.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita served Taitingfong the arrest warrant charging him with robbery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Norita stated in his report that it was a "confidential source" who revealed to a police officer that the person on the surveillance camera's footage in the Micro Beach robbery was Taitingfong.

Norita said the "confidential source" is a close family member of Taitingfong.

Norita said the victim also identified Taitingfong in the photo line-up as the person who attacked her in her bedroom and ran away with her purse.

Norita said that on July 7, 2016 at 2:17am, two police officers responded to the robbery incident that occurred at one of the rooms on the third floor of Micro Beach Hotel in western Garapan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

WOMAN

From page 1

to smuggle over 4 lbs of "ice" into the CNMI by mail back in June 2022, was arrested last Aug. 31, 2023.

Gao appeared before District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for an initial hearing last Sept. 1.

Gao is currently facing one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a federally controlled substance.

During the hearing, the defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge brought against her.

Manglona scheduled a jury trial for Nov. 7, at 10am and scheduled a detention hearing for Monday, Sept. 11.

According to the complaint against Gao, between June 21, 2022 and June 22, 2022, she conspired and agreed with Chun Yang and Yurong Wang, along with others, to possess methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(a)(1).

In December 2022, Gao's co-defendants Yang, 45, and Yurong, 49, each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute a federally controlled substance.

They will be sentenced on Dec. 6, 2023, at 9 am.

According to the complaint against the defendants, on June 21, 2022, CNMI Customs officers searched a parcel at the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa and discovered suspected methamphetamine.

Package No. 1 contained approximately 602.6 gross grams. Package No. 2 contained approximately 656.6 gross grams, and Package No. 3 contained approximately 576.3 gross grams.

All three packages weighed approximately 1,835.5 gross grams or 4.04 lbs. of suspected methamphetamine.

After conducting surveillance of the intended recipient of the parcel addressed to a private mailbox company, Yang and Yurong were arrested.

KILILI

From page 1

He said as part of the debt ceiling agreement enacted into law last June, Republicans prohibited further extensions of the payment pause and restricted the Biden administration's ability to reinstate such a measure.

In 2022, President Joseph Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the U.S. Department of Education announced a three-part plan, including the loan forgiveness of up to $20,000, to help working and middle-class federal student loan borrowers transition back to regular payment as pandemic-related support expires.

Six Republican-led states have filed a lawsuit against Biden's student loan forgiveness policies, accusing the president of overstepping his authority.

Sablan said over the weekend that the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid has provided information and resources regarding steps borrowers can take now to prepare for repayment, including updating their contact information and comparing repayment plans to choose an option that works best for them.

He said borrowers may also check their eligibility to qualify for loan forgiveness, which is available to certain individuals in limited circumstances.

Sablan said both the U.S. Department of Education and loan servicers will contact borrowers ahead of time to remind them of the start to repayment.

In July 2022, Sablan and several other U.S. lawmakers wrote Biden and U.S. Department of Education Secretary Miguel Cordona, urging them to pause student loan payments, given the numerous economic issues facing borrowers across the nation, as well as administrative actions in process by the department.

Sablan and his colleagues said that resuming student loan payments would force millions of borrowers to choose between paying their federal student loans or putting a roof over their heads, food on the table, or paying for childcare and healthcare—while costs continue to rise and yet another COVID-19 variant increases hospitalizations nationwide.

CPA

From page 1

In an interview with CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds following an emergency board meeting last Thursday, she stated that the board unanimously passed a version of CPA's FY2024 budget that would reflect an eight-hour reduction to all CPA employees' current work schedules.

The cut, which would bring these employees' hours down to 72-hour bi-weekly, was made in an effort to bring costs down in order to continue operating CNMI Airports.

"We have not been on austerity for the past few years because we have been using our American Rescue Plan Act funds but now, beginning this coming fiscal year, all CPA employees will be down to 72 hours," she said.

The board chair said CPA is no novice to austerity but she still worries that this will only negatively impact morale for all the hard working CPA employees.

"Honestly, austerity for CPA is not new. When I first came onboard, we were under austerity so there's always been a struggle to keep up with our operational expenses because a lot of these things that affect our operations are beyond our control like typhoons for example. Now, I'm just really concerned about morale, I know that that's a real problem here, especially when you compare salaries of the regular employees here compared to other ports, it's low," she said.

Although the board was not happy to make this cut, King-Hinds said absent the China market, CPA is in a world of hurt and their hands are tied when it comes to these decisions.

"Operational costs keep going up in terms of just fixed costs [like utilities, insurance, etc.,] so wee keep cutting personnel, we have not been giving personnel raises, so now you have morale problem, that's what I meant when I said CPA is in a world of hurt because we can't keep loyal people because they're looking for greener pastures. It's tough," she said.

King-Hinds said CPA wishes they could pay their employees the salaries they deserve but the only way that can happen is by either bringing in new tourist markets, or possibly reconnecting with the China market.

"The only thing [our] employees care about is money in their pockets and to be honest, they deserve far more than they're getting but the only way we can give them what they deserve is by generating more revenue and even if we did generate more revenue, we'd have to take care of the bills first and with the excess we would look toward increasing those salaries and benefits," she said.

As part of CPA's efforts to hopefully boost morale, the board has recently adopted a new Self Care leave.

"One of the things we tried to do here in CPA to boost morale was adopting the self-care leave. We adopted Self Care leave which allows an employee to take leave for one whole day every quarter no questions asked. This doesn't count against one's sick leave or annual leave. So different things like that, we try to do," King-Hinds shared.

In addition to cutting hours, CPA has also suspended its Airline Incentive program and has implemented a 90% increase in rates.

ACG

From page 1

na's recent change in the law has now made that impossible.

Leong informed Department of Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos in a letter that Chinese citizens are now prohibited from traveling anywhere for the purpose of gambling and that casino operators are also prohibited from marketing to Chinese citizens or facilitating their travel.

Leong's letter dated July 7, 2023, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* from DPL last Friday, was in response to DPL's notice of default and notice of violation against Alter City Group.

Despite receiving Leong's July 7 response, Santos notified him last Aug. 18 that DPL has terminated the lease agreement with Alter City Group, for failing to cure the defaults in the agreement by the Aug. 8, 2023 deadline.

Macau-based Alter City Group acquired in 2014 a lease of a 152-hectare public land for its proposed $360-million casino resort project on Tinian.

Last June 9, Santos issued a notice of default and notice of violation to Alter City for failing to comply with the terms and conditions of the lease agreement.

In Alter City's response to the June 9 notice, Leong said DPL required them to submit financing position, project update, land lease payment, and an opportunity to cure breach of the agreement.

Leong said he sent DPL earlier an update letter outlining two of the challenges that they face—China's recent decision to outlaw travel for the purpose of casino gaming and continuing uncertainty in the global economy.

The Alter City director said Chinese citizens are now prohibited from transferring money out of China for purposes of gambling or to invest in a casino gaming project.

He said they have spent considerable efforts exploring other markets in the region.

Leong said governments around the world are already implementing a lot of measures to correct the business environment.

The director said he mentioned these challenges they are facing, not to make excuses, but to highlight the drastic and continuing change in circumstances.

"It is upon this backdrop that we are establishing strategic partnerships with groups in other countries in the region," he said.

Leong said, however, because of the uncertainty, at this time they are unable to receive firm commitments from these groups.

He said everyone is "stuck in a holding pattern" until the situation stabilizes.

"We are doing everything we can to establish a roadmap for your consideration prior to the submission of the project update," Leong told Santos.

Among the corrective actions that DPL required is for Alter City to complete the construction of a 500-room Plumeria Golf & Casino Resort, including 150 corporate villas, an 18-hole international golf course, a clubhouse with driving range facility, a medical center, farmer's market, training center, retail services, conservatory, and staff dormitories.

PAROLE

From page 3

timately will not be tolerated," Hinds said.

The chief prosecutor also noted that a review of the Department of Corrections' institutional conduct report on Igisomar shows that he was not always a model inmate.

"Inmate was sanctioned on five separate violations. Inmate was placed in isolation ranging between seven to 30 days resulting from violations such as possession of cellular phone and possession of [a] lighter. Inmate was also sanctioned [for] 15 days for possession of [a] lighter and tobacco, possession of cigarette, and possession of snuff," he said. "The inmate's actions during his incarceration displays significant signs that the inmate fails to comply and adhere to instructions, rules, order, and, most importantly, the law."

Hinds also opposed early release for the other five applicants.

Celebrating 38 Years of Refreshment and Community Connection!

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Amata joins CODEL in FSM to discuss strong alliance with US

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata took part this week in a historic bipartisan Congressional Delegation to the Federated States of Micronesia, led by House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), that traveled to the island nation of the Federated States of Micronesia, meeting with top-ranking officials in the Micronesian government. The CODEL discussed issues facing the nation and the strategic importance of a strong U.S,-FSM partnership in the region.

"As a representative living in a Pacific Island territory myself, I appreciate the opportunity to be with my colleagues as we meet with dignitaries from throughout our region and see these strategic places firsthand," said Amata. "These key allies must know of our unwavering commitment to the Pacific region, and a visit like this is a great opportunity to emphasize that, as we discuss directly in person the priorities that motivate the leadership of our countries, and how we can build on that foundation together."

Westerman said, "Today we have made our commitment to our allies in the Indo-Pacific clear with our historic visit to the Federated States of Micronesia. The People's Republic of China's threat to U.S. national security remains high as they seek to undo our democratic way of life and undermine our standing as leaders on the international stage. This will not be tolerated. Our visit today is another demonstration of the strength of the U.S.'s alliances in the region to deter any growth of the PRC's influence here and throughout the Indo-Pacific. I'd like to thank His Excellency President Wesley W. Simina for hosting us on this historic trip and I'm confident that the future remains bright for U.S.-FSM relations."

This year, the Committee under Westerman has put a priority on strengthening America's presence in the Indo-Pacific region, especially with the creation of the bipartisan Indo-Pacific Task Force, chaired by Amata and co-chaired by Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. The committee and the task force are actively conducting oversight on issues facing the U.S. Pacific territories and Freely Associated States in the Indo-Pacific region, with this CODEL seeing these issues firsthand and hearing from local communities to further understand the threat of the People's Republic of China under the Chinese Communist Party. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Congressional Delegation, led by by House Committee on Natural Resources chairman Bruce Westerman, with Federated States of Micronesia President Wesley W. Simina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata shakes hands with Federated States of Micronesia President Wesley W. Simina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coconut refreshment and meeting with the Federated States of Micronesia legislature.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

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/S/ PATRICK C. GUERRERO
GOVERNOR'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
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PUBLIC NOTICE
08/29/2023

Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Emergency Solution Grants

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 747	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 HMIS		$8,000.00	($7,335.00)	$665.00	$8,000.00
			Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		($7,335.00)		
IDIS# 740	HESG	PY2021 HESG21 Rapid Rehousing NMHC		$39,402.42	$7,335.00	$46,737.42	$39,402.42
			Total Reprogrammed from Activities:		$7,335.00		

Our agency, through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP), publishes a "Public Notice" on reprogramming funds from HMIS to a project activity, which constitutes as a substantial amendment. Therefore, any comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before September 29, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447.

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

GCC celebrates new multipurpose auditorium

MANGILAO, Guam— Guam Community College unveiled its new multipurpose auditorium at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the College's Mangilao campus yesterday. The new MPA building is the central facility for many GCC activities including student orientations, Culinary Arts buffet lunches, work-ready boot camp completion ceremonies, GCC's LinkUp student showcase, the very popular cardboard challenge, and election debates hosted by GCC students.

According to GCC president Dr. Mary Okada, the MPA project has been in the works for several years but has been well-worth the time and effort. "I must say that this particular project leads the way in which we amplify the 'community' in our name by providing opportunities for our students. I've spent the last 16 years working with my team to rebuild and strengthen the campus. Think ahead and imagine what the upcoming years will bring. When opportunities like this emerge, it truly represents the support for the community of Guam in developing our workforce. "

The new MPA has an expanded footprint at 12,500 square feet and a maximum capacity of 500 people. The upgraded Building 300 was part of the original GCC campus and was one of the last remaining butler buildings on campus. The $4.45-million construction project was partially funded by a $1.19 million hazard mitigation grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to renovate and "harden" building 300 from disasters such as typhoons.

"Repeatedly, studies have validated, mitigation will result in returns that can be as high as six to seven times the initial investment in terms of averting future damage," said Veronica Verde, external affairs Officer FEMA Region IX. "The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program was designed and constructed to bolster the structural integrity of the building, rendering it resilient against the formidable forces of typhoons, tropical storms, and high wind events."

The new MPA meets LEED standards and has a maximum capacity of 500 individuals. The main hall is designed to be used as one open space or can be divided into four sections to accommodate multiple activities. The building is equipped with a grid-tied photovoltaic system, rainwater catchment, energy efficient HVAC and lighting systems, among other eco-friendly features. The building is designed to meet structural and typhoon wind strength standards.

Okada also recognized and thanked J&B Modern Tech, project contractor, and Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects (TRMA) which provided the architectural design.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Community College president, Dr. Mary Okada leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new multipurpose gymnasium at the college's Mangilao campus last week.

During her remarks, Verde made a surprise announcement, "FEMA announced the round two of the 2022 BRIC selections, and the Guam Community College (GCC) building 600 retrofit project was one of the selected projects for funding consideration. Congratulations!"

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding of $1.38 million would allow GCC to continue to strengthen several of the existing structures. Building 600 houses the classrooms and work bay for the Construction program. ***(PR)***

Guam National Guard hosts Joint Commanders Conference

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Nicholas Simmons, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia; Col. Ernest Govea, Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Base Camp Blas; Brig. Gen. Michael Cruz, adjutant general, Guam National Guard; Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, commander, Joint Region Marianas; and Brig Gen. Thomas Palenske, commander, 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Base Guam, gather at a Joint Commanders Conference hosted by the Guam National Guard, Barrigada, Aug. 30, 2023.

Top commanders from the military branches on Guam visited the Guam National Guard Joint Force Headquarters at the Guard's Barrigada Readiness Complex, Aug. 30, 2023, at the invitation of Brig. Gen. Michael Cruz, adjutant general. The key leaders, along with their senior enlisted advisors, met with Guard staff, received a "GUNG 101" capabilities brief, and discussed unity of effort between their respective commands.

Discussion centered on closer relationships, joint planning, and "sets and reps" of practice for better interoperability now, before the next potential disaster, crisis, or conflict occurs. Brig. Gen. Cruz also expressed the unique interest the Guam Guard has in defending not only its people, but Guam's natural resources and 4,000-year cultural legacy. Cruz noted that the military must not just fight from Guam—but also fight for Guam.

"Our priority in the Guard is the defense of Guam and the Marianas," said Brig. Gen. Cruz. "We are all here in the same tank, on the same ship, in the same airframe, and on the same island. We might as well get to know each other."

The conference is part of an ongoing effort by the Guam Guard to promote collaboration, communication, and transparency between the local military commands, local government, and the people of Guam. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2023-010

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: September 27, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Building Maintenance Services for NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Project Package will be available on August 28, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan on **September 07, 2023, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 22, 2023 **CLOSING DATE: September 06, 2023** **TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2023-017	1-CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Rota	$25,000.00-$30,000.00- per annum-UNGRADED
2023-018	1- CDBG-DR Loan Specialist- Rota	$25,000.00-$30,000.00- per annum-UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the NMHC Field Office in Sinapalo, Rota; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2023-008

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: September 07, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Route 206 Road and Drainage Improvement Project, Tinian

Project Package will be available on August 07, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office in Tinian located at the NMC Campus in Tinian on August 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Biden's Medicare drug price plan is good medicine for Americans

The federal government operates three gigantic systems providing health care to millions of Americans. The VA takes care of veterans, Medicaid (whose costs are shared with states and localities) is coverage for the poor and Medicare is health insurance for seniors and people with disabilities.

The VA and Medicaid can, and do, negotiate with suppliers on drug prices, just like they negotiate payment levels for other health services. Yet Medicare, which sets the reimbursement rates for doctors and hospitals, is barred by federal law from negotiating on drugs. That's the doing of the well-heeled pharmaceutical lobby.

The prohibition from allowing Medicare to negotiate on drug prices was part of the original legislation when Medicare's Part D drug benefit was first approved by a Republican Congress and President George W. Bush in 2003. Sen. John McCain, always a truth-teller, said the ban on negotiations was "outrageous," as Democrats pledged to change it.

It took a long time, but the change finally came last year with President Joe Biden's hodgepodge Inflation Reduction Act. The law, signed a year ago this month, permitted Uncle Sam (meaning Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra) to haggle over the prices of medications, albeit only a small group of drugs at a time.

Biden has now announced the first 10 drugs. The negotiations, by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, will take years and the lower prices for consumers will begin in 2026. There will be another 50 drugs over the next four years up for negotiations and after that, 20 a year. And Big Pharma is fighting all the way, already in court to stop it.

The billions saved by both the government and the patients are billions coming from their bank accounts. Higher prices mean higher profits. As for lower prices, that is something that they are not interested in. The first group of drugs are made by Bristol Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Amgen, AbbVie and Novo Nordisk.

Those pharmaceuticals do good work and deserve to be fairly compensated. We are committed capitalists and think that private companies are entitled to gain from their medical discoveries (even though a great deal of the research money is government funds). But should medicine for diabetes or heart disease cost a fortune?

One of the drugs on the list, Imbruvica, for blood cancer, runs $17,000 a month, or $204,000 a year. Is it that expensive to manufacture? Or were its development expenses extraordinarily pricey? Or are there not that many patients using it, so the costs per person have to be so high? Whatever the reason, it can be addressed during the talks now permitted between Medicare and the supplier, a joint product of AbbVie and Johnson & Johnson.

Big Pharma argues that since Medicare is such a big customer of their goods, it won't be a real negotiation but a dictate, laid

See BIDEN'S on next Page

WE MUST KEEP THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL FAIR AND IMPARTIAL!
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Latin America is waxing nostalgic for dictators

By EDUARDO PORTER
Bloomberg Opinion

Eduardo Porter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Latin America, U.S. economic policy and immigration. He is the author of "American Poison: How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise" and "The Price of Everything: Finding Method in the Madness of What Things Cost."
This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

In two weeks, Chile will observe the 50th anniversary of one of the darkest moments in Latin America's tortuous chapter of the Cold War: the coup d'état by General Augusto Pinochet on September 11, 1973, that ousted President Salvador Allende and squashed Chilean democracy.

The US.-backed coup is a key episode in a bloody history marked by military takeovers from Argentina and Brazil to El Salvador and Guatemala; of strongmen imposing their will at the point of a gun, "disappearing" opponents, scarring the land with mass graves.

We can only hope this era stays behind us.

Democracy has taken hold across most of the region since the end of the Cold War curbed Washington's interest in toppling governments of the left. A referendum in 1988 put an end to Pinochet's bloody rule, ushering in a multiparty democracy that led Chile to become the best performing economy in Latin America, ranked highest in the region by the United Nations Human Development Index.

And yet despite the scars left by juntas and dictators, citizens across Latin America somehow find themselves tempted by the prospect of authoritarian rule.

According to the latest Latinobarometro poll , a set of face-to-face surveys of some 20,000 people across Latin America from February to April, democracy is losing friends pretty much everywhere.

Only 48% of respondents to the poll agreed that democracy is preferable to any other form of government. This is 15 percentage points less than in 2010. It is the lowest share since the survey began in 1995.

By contrast, 54% of respondents said they wouldn't mind a non-democratic government coming to power if it could solve the nation's problems, 10 percentage points more than 20 years ago.

The decline in support for democracy has been precipitous in some countries. Only 35% of Mexicans believe democracy is the best form of government, down from 43% just three years ago. Some 70% of Hondurans and 63% of Salvadoreans wouldn't mind a non-democratic government that could fix things.

Democracy's popularity is holding up comparatively well in Chile. Still, it has slipped to only 58%. And only 28% of Chileans say they are satisfied with how democracy is working in their country, half the share of 2010.

According to another poll , taken between May and July by Chile's Center for Public Studies, two-thirds of Chileans agree with the proposition that "instead of worrying so much about people's rights, what this country needs is a firm government." That's more than twice the share that endorsed the statement in 2019.

Democracy's troubles are not exclusive to Latin America . The V-Dem Institute reports that 5.7 billion people lived under autocratic governments last year. That's 72% of the world's population, up from 46% ten years before. "Advances in global levels of democracy made over the last 35 years have been wiped out," it noted.

Authoritarianism has also been making strides in the U.S. According to a poll published last month by NORC and the Associated Press , 49% of Americans say democracy is not working . Still, dissatisfaction in Latin America seems more extreme: 69% of respondents to the Latinobarometro survey said democracy is not working for them.

What's going on? Insecurity—the reality or perception of violence careening out of control—surely plays a big role.

Consider El Salvador, where President Nayib Bukele's scorched earth tactics against criminal gangs enjoy such popularity that the president has decided to defy the constitution and run for re-election.

Four of five Salvadorans say their country is progressing, the highest share in Latin America by far. Only 28% think Salvadoran society needs profound or radical change, the lowest share in the region. Nine out of ten approve of their government. And 64% claim to be satisfied with democracy—the highest share since the survey started in 1995.

A lot of this flows from a single fact: Three-quarters of Salvadorans believe they are safe, protected from crime. Indeed, the murder rate in El Salvador declined to under 8 per 100,000 inhabitants last year—down from over 52 per 100,000 in 2018. In 2018 only 11% of Salvadorans were satisfied with how democracy worked.

Chile offers a telling contrast. It remains one of the safest countries in Latin America—with a homicide rate of only 5 per 100,000. Still, only 17% of Chileans believe themselves safe from crime. Not coincidentally, 69% of them believe their country needs deep changes and only a quarter believe it is making progress. Barely 40% support their government, according to the Latinobarometro survey.

The rising concern over public security, however, cannot completely account for the increasing disillusionment of Latin American voters, who have booted incumbent parties out of office in 18 of the last 19 presidential elections, including the one last Sunday in Guatemala, where Bernardo Arévalo of the tiny Semilla Movement trounced former first lady Sandra Torres, representing the country's political elite.

Democracy, it seems, is not delivering in more ways than one. Seven out of ten respondents to Latinobarometro's surveys say governments in the region are in the hands of a small clique of powerful elites serving their own interests. Three-quarters believe income distribution in their countries is unjust, and fewer than half think there is equality of opportunity.

Fewer than a third believe there has been progress in the battle against corruption. Only 16% trust political parties, fewer than a

See LATIN on next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Moving to California allowed me to discover running. But the temperate climate is changing

By DIYA SABHARWAL
Los Angeles Times

Diya Sabharwal is an intern with the Editorial Pages of the Los Angeles Times.

I spent most of the first 18 years of my life in Delhi, India, where it felt like the weather was out to get me. In the summers, it wasn't uncommon for my friends to faint due to heatstroke in the scorching 110-degree heat.

When it rained, water puddles would give rise to new mosquito-borne diseases, and our school warned us to cover up to avoid mosquito bites. The winter smog meant that I would be poisoning my lungs if I so much as took a walk. It felt dangerous to exist outdoors. I thought I was "indoorsy" and preferred sitting inside, reading or watching TV, far away from forces of nature. And it wasn't awful—giant malls and towering skyscrapers abound in my city. Visiting a pretty building was the most adventurous I wanted to get, at the time.

Moving to Northern California in 2021 helped me break out of that shell because I was finally in an environment that welcomed outdoor exploration.

Suddenly, I loved running and being outside because the temperate climate made my body feel good when I exerted myself. California's weather unlocked a whole new part of me. Running under the Californian sun wasn't just exercise; it was liberation from the brick-and-mortar confines of my previous life.

However, I feel the specter of my past returning as the temperate California weather changes. Northern California started the year with uncharacteristically heavy rain and flooding, which meant that for months on end I could not enjoy the outdoors. My daily runs became sporadic, and I would anxiously check the weather report to know when it was dry enough to run again. And during the record-breaking heat wave this summer it was almost unbearable to run long distances, making me worried that I will lose the nature and the environment where I feel like I belong.

California is barreling toward a future where the outdoors might become inhospitable for children to play because of wildfire smoke, heat waves, storms and flooding.

The toll this summer has already been pretty grim. At least seven park visitors in the U.S. Southwest—two in Death Valley—are likely to have died due to extreme heat exposure this summer. On the flip side, heavy storms over the winter caused so much damage to the roads in the San Gabriel Mountains that the Angeles Crest 100-kilometer race had to be canceled this year. In May, the Wild Wild West marathon and ultra races in Lone Pine were canceled, with runoff from this year's record snowfall making the course impassable in some places.

In acknowledgment of the heating climate, the Bulldog 50K race held every summer in Malibu Creek State Park has recently introduced new measures to counteract the heat. Race organizers now place 2,000 pounds of ice all around the race course and have ice baths at the finish line. It is clear that our cherished outdoor events are under threat.

The warming climate is making runners slower. An analysis by the website RunRepeat in 2021 found that marathoners take, on average, 1 minute and 25 seconds longer to finish the race for every additional degree Fahrenheit. And heat is the leading weather-related killer.

Larry Kalkstein of Applied Climatologists Inc. emphasizes how important it is to take global warming seriously as a runner. During intense heat waves such as the one Los Angeles experienced this summer, he says, it is essential to listen to warnings that advise residents to minimize outdoor activity and shelter indoors. Heat can be very dangerous, but, as Kalkstein says, "you don't see the place ripped up during a heat wave like you do during a tornado, so people are fooled into thinking it doesn't matter."

The effects of climate change are becoming more and more evident every year. We have to act before it's too late. Divest from fossil fuels, drive less and bike more; invest more money in sustainability technology and research. The reality is that there is no real solution to the environmental problems facing us today—yet. But that doesn't mean that we can't aim to live more sustainable lives now, and hope for a better tomorrow.

If California has taught me one thing, it's the power of transformation—of self and of environment. Let's harness that spirit. The future of our Golden State hinges on our actions today.

From 1990s to this week, racial violence against Black Americans goes largely unanswered

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

I graduated from college in 1996.

That year, President Bill Clinton signed an anti-church-burning bill into law. Between the time I received my high school diploma and my bachelor's degree, more than 40 predominantly Black churches had been burned in the South alone.

Not in 1966. In 1996. A tough pill to swallow for the "that was a long time ago" crowd.

Tom Royals was the defense attorney for one of three young white males convicted of burning the Rocky Point Missionary Baptist Church in Mississippi back in 1993. Reportedly they yelled "burn, n—, burn" as they sped away. Royals, who had lived in the state since the 1950s, described the arson as "irrational" and the arsonists as "young, drunk and crazy."

"Racist" would have been more accurate. Certainly more direct. But not flattering. So, Royals took the scenic route in describing his client's actions in hopes of softening the blow. It didn't work.

This week, I am returning to teach at the college from which I graduated in 1996. Also, this week, President Joe Biden issued a statement saying that "white supremacy has no place in America."

Quite the bookends.

The year I left college, Black churches were being burned to the ground—some reportedly by members of the KKK. More than a quarter of a century later, a white man with swastikas painted on his gun and a white supremacist patch on his tactical vest, guns down three Black people in Jacksonville, Fla.

In between, there have been too many racially motivated hate crimes to list. There's no need dig up archival footage from the civil rights era in the 1960s when racist attacks are still occurring with great regularity in real time.

Biden's statement took the direct approach in condemning what happened last weekend in Florida. As did those made by local law enforcement in the immediate aftermath.

"This shooting was racially motivated, and he hated Black people," Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters said of the killer. "I don't know that the targets were specific, but I know that any member of that race at that time was in danger. Of the Black race."

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray said, "This was a targeted attack, a hate crime that was racially motivated."

So why did Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., take the scenic route in describing what occurred? He wrote on social media that "a sick person" committed the acts and that "we condemn this in the strongest possible terms and hope for a day when violence like this is absent from our society."

Violence like what, I wonder? In 2021, Gaetz called the Anti-Defamation League "a racist organization," so clearly he's not afraid to use the word. Yet he withheld any mention of race while talking about a racially motivated attack.

For a defense attorney such as Royals, using vague and equivocal language is consistent with trying to defend a client. So why is Gaetz—who invited a Holocaust denier to the State of the Union address in 2018—being so vague? Why won't he state the obvious?

Of the 37 church fires in Florida investigated by the Clinton administration, most took place in Jacksonville. However, some occurred in the same congressional district where Gaetz was attending high school at the time. Some occurred while Gaetz was attending classes at Florida State University.

In 2015, nine Black worshipers at a church in Charleston, S.C., were murdered by a white supremacist. Three years later, a white supremacist attacked a Pittsburgh synagogue leaving 11 Jewish worshipers dead. In 2019, 23 shoppers, mostly Latinos, were murdered in El Paso by a white supremacist radicalized by the "great replacement theory" promoted by Tucker Carlson and other commentators and right-wing extremists. That's the same worldview echoed by the gunman who entered a Buffalo, N.Y., grocery store in 2022, killing 10 people. The 180-page manifesto made clear he targeted his victims for being Black.

The problem for "that was a long time ago" crowd is the definition of "long time ago" needs constant updating. It refreshed when I was in college. It refreshed when Gaetz was in college. It has been painfully refreshed for students returning to campus this week.

Generation after generation of Americans are confronted with racially motivated violence and right-wing elected officials trying to dismiss reality with equivocal language. Like a defense attorney. In 2021, while addressing a crowd of supporters, Gaetz said, "They aren't really coming for me. They're coming for you. I'm just in the way."

Great—but who exactly is he trying to protect?

LATIN

From Page 8

quarter trust Congress and only 29% trust the judiciary. Only 36% of people in the region express trust in their president.

Overall, the tableau sketched out by Latinobarometro looks a lot like an indictment. With the phantom of hardline authoritarianism looming in the rearview mirror, it suggests ominous prospects for the political future of Latin America's young democracies.

It might not portend a return to military dictatorship. Indeed, 61% of respondents in the Latinobarometro poll said that under no conditions could they support a military government, a share that has remained roughly stable over the last 20 years.But authoritarianism can take a different face, that of populist outsiders coming to rescue the nation. Inevitably, they find themselves tempted to curtail civil rights and undermine democratic institutions in the service of their power.

The list is getting long, from Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro to Mexico's current one, Andrés Manuel López Obrador; from Bukele in El Salvador to Javier Milei, Argentina's presidential frontrunner, who has pledged to "blow up" the political status quo.

The poll by Chile's Center for Public Studies asked Chileans about their partisan sympathies. The most popular, by far, is the Republican Party—heir to the legacy of General Augusto Pinochet.

BIDEN'S

From Page 8

down by Medicare without much back and forth. And since Medicare is the federal government, it would be akin to the government setting prices.

With their ample resources to wage this courtroom battle, the legal fight will eventually land in the U.S. Supreme Court. Hopefully, the program will be upheld and drug costs will be lowered.

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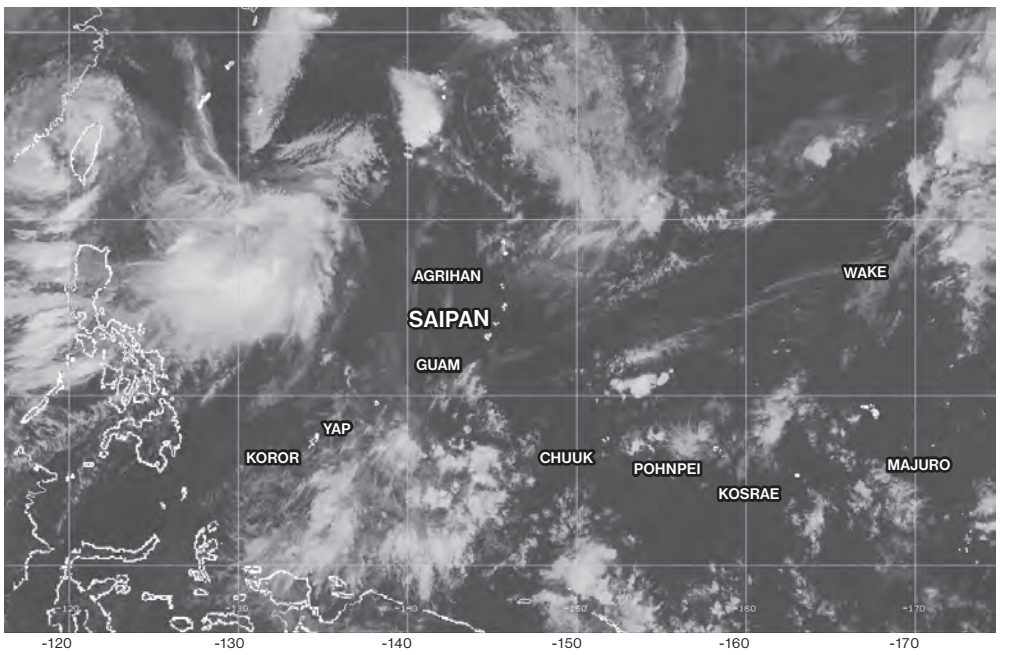
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers before 11am. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	85° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning, concentrated northwest of the islands. The Ipan buoy reveals an east swell of 2 to 3 feet. Computer wave model guidance indicates a 3 to 4 feet. Together these lead to combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, with wind waves being pretty much negligible.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	82° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:48 AM	10:26 PM
Wednesday	-	11:45 AM	11:14 PM
Thursday	-	12:43 PM	-
Friday	12:04 AM	1:38 PM	-
Saturday	12:57 AM	2:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89° / 79°
London	Showers	70° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	92° / 73°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	63° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorm	88° / 65°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°
Busan	Thunderstorm	81° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 63°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	96° / 73°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	82° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	92° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
5:40 AM	Low Tide	0.23
12:10 PM	High Tide	1.76
5:46 PM	Low Tide	1.06
11:09 PM	High Tide	1.90

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

FOR SMALL BIZ RELIANT ON SUMMER TOURISM

Extreme weather is new pandemic—for better or worse

NEW YORK (AP)—For small businesses that rely on summer tourism to keep afloat, extreme weather is replacing the pandemic as the determining factor in how well a summer will go.

The pandemic had its ups and downs for tourism, with a total shutdown followed by a rush of vacations due to pent-up demand. This year, small businesses say vacation cadences are returning to normal. But now, they have extreme weather to deal with—many say it's hurting business, but more temperate spots are seeing a surge.

Tourism-related businesses have always been at the mercy of the weather. But with heat waves, fires and storms becoming more frequent and intense, small businesses increasingly see extreme weather as their next long-term challenge.

For Jared Meyers, owner of Legacy Vacation Resorts, with eight locations, including four in Florida, Hurricane Idalia's landfall Wednesday as a Category 3 storm led to a loss in revenue as he temporarily closed one resort and and closed another to new guests. It also means a lengthy cleanup period to fix gutter and other damage and beach cleanup, including replanting of sea grass, sea grapes and other plants to protect against the next storm.

"Even when the hurricane doesn't hit directly, it wreaks havoc economically, emotionally—to those that have suffered previous losses—and to our way of life," he said.

A lifelong Florida resident, he's used to hurricanes, but fears their intensity is getting worse. In fact, the number of storms that intensify dramatically within 240 miles (385 kilometers) of a coastline across the globe grew to 15 a year in 2020 compared to five a year in 1980, according to a study published in Nature Communications.

AP

Dan Dawson, owner of Horizon Divers, poses outside his dive shop in Key Largo, Fla., Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023. Dawson saw business boom during the pandemic.

"It does feel like and probably will continue to feel like we're just hopping from one emergency to another based on climate change," Meyers said.

For Steve Silberberg in Saco, Maine, who runs Fitpacking, a company that guides people on wilderness backpacking trips in national and state parks and forests, extreme weather is becoming a serious obstacle. National Park Service Research has shown that national parks are experiencing extreme weather conditions at a higher rate than the rest of the country because of where they're located.

Historic snowfall in March at Yosemite—followed by a wildfire—affected one hike Silberberg had planned. Another hike was canceled due to unusually large snowfall rendering the Narrows—part of Zion Canyon in Zion National Park in Utah— impassable due to a high volume of meltwater. He had to cancel a trip to the Los Padres National Forest in California due to wildfires and subsequent flooding, which destroyed trails and made them impassable.

"We are quickly approaching a crossroads as to how to keep the business viable," he said. "It seems that almost half of our trips are affected in some way by increasingly extreme weather events."

Silberberg is trying to find ways to make climate change work for him, however. He is thinking about starting a company that helps people visit places that may disappear due to climate change, such as Glacier National Park in Montana or the Everglades in Florida, which is threatened by rising sea levels.

In Southern California this summer, businesses faced sweltering heat, followed by Tropical Storm Hilary, the first tropical storm the region had seen in 84 years.

"Definitely extreme weather is here to stay," said Shachi Mehra executive chef and partner at Adya, Indian restaurant in Anaheim, California. The restaurant is located in the Anaheim Packing House, a food hall in a historic 1919 citrus-packing house near Disneyland.

The restaurant closed for a day proactively during Tropical Storm Hilary, losing a day of sales. Heat has been more of an issue, as business slowed in late July this summer during a surge in temperatures. Mehra said she suspects the heat is behind the slowdown since typically things start to slow in late August or September.

Media focus on extreme weather can hurt business, too. Dan Dawson, owner of Horizon Divers in Key Largo, Florida, saw business boom during the pandemic. Now it's back to pre-pandemic levels. But when storms like Idalia close in, tourists flee — even though Dawson's spot in Key Largo was 300 miles (480 kilometers) from where Idalia hit.

Billionaires want to build new city in rural California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Silicon Valley billionaires behind a secretive $800 million land-buying spree in Northern California have finally released some details about their plans for a new green city, but they still must win over skeptical voters and local leaders.

After years of ducking scrutiny, Jan Sramek, the former Goldman Sachs trader spearheading the effort, launched a website Thursday about "California Forever." The site billed the project as "a chance for a new community, good paying local jobs, solar farms, and open space" in Solano, a rural county between San Francisco and Sacramento that is now home to 450,000 people.

He also began meeting with key politicians representing the area who have been trying unsuccessfully for years to find out who was behind the mysterious Flannery Associates LLC as it bought up huge swaths of land, making it the largest single landholder in the county.

An all-star roster of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and venture capitalists are backing the project, including philanthropist Laurene Powell Jobs, LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, and venture capitalist Marc Andreessen. The New York Times first reported on the group's investors and plans.

California Forever, the parent company of Flannery, has purchased more than 78 square miles (202 square kilometers) of farmland in Solano County since 2018, largely in the southeastern portion of the county, with parcels stretching from Fairfield to Rio Vista. According to the website, Sramek fell in love with the area over fishing trips and he and his wife recently purchased a home in the county for their growing family.

The project issued a poll to residents last month to gauge support for "a new city with tens of thousands of new homes," solar energy farm and new parks funded entirely by the private sector.

But to build anything resembling a city on what is now farmland, the group must first convince Solano County voters to approve a ballot initiative to allow for urban uses on that land, a protection that has been in place since 1984. Local and federal officials still have questions about the group's intentions.

Two area congressmen who sought for years to find out whether foreign adversaries or investors were behind the buying spree around a U.S. Air Force base vital to national security and the local economy are furious that Flannery kept its identity hidden for so long. The website say 97% of its funding is from U.S. investors and the rest are from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

"The FBI, the Department of Treasury, everyone has been doing work trying to figure out who these people are," U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, who represents much of the county, said this week after meeting with Sramek. "Their secrecy has caused a lot of problems, a lot of time, and a lot of expense."

The investment group said secrecy was required until enough land was purchased, in order to avoid short-term speculation, but that it is now ready to hear from Solano households via a mailed survey and creation of a community advisory board. Past surveys showed parents were most concerned about their children's future, the website said.

"Instead of watching our kids leave, we have the opportunity to build a new community that attracts new employers, creates good paying local jobs, builds homes in walkable neighborhoods, leads in environment stewardship, and fuels a growing tax base to serve the county at large," it said.

California is in dire need of more housing, especially affordable homes for teachers, firefighters, service and hospitality workers. But cities and counties can't figure out where to build as established neighborhoods argue against new homes that they say would congest their roads and spoil their quiet way of life.

In many ways, Solano County is ideal for development. It is 60 miles (96 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco and 35 miles (56 kilometers) southwest of California's capital city of Sacramento. Solano County homes are among the most affordable in the San Francisco Bay Area, with a median sales price of $600,000 last month.

As G20 leaders prepare to meet in New Delhi, climate policy issues unresolved

NEW DELHI (AP)—Rekha Devi, a 30-year-old farm worker, is dreading the moment when her family will be ordered to leave their makeshift tent atop a half-built overpass and return to the Yamuna River floodplains below, where their hut and small field of vegetables is still under water from July's devastating rains.

Devi, her husband and their six children fled as the record monsoon rains triggered flooding that killed more than 100 people in northern India, displaced thousands and inundated large parts of the capital, New Delhi. The waters took her husband's work tools, the children's school uniforms and books and everything else the family had accumulated over 20 years, forcing them and thousands of others into makeshift relief camps.

Their temporary perch is less than 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the site of this weekend's Group of 20 summit at which leaders will have a final chance to decide how to better protect people like Devi when the next extreme weather event batters the city. But she expects little — except eviction as part of security measures for the meetings.

"If the leaders lived here, would they have taken their kids into the deep waters to live? Right now, no one is doing anything for us. We will see when they do something," she said.

Despite cyclones, extreme rains, landslides and extreme heat affecting India and the rest of the world in the last few months, climate ministers of the G20 nations — the world's largest economies and producers of most of its greenhouse gases —ended their last meeting for the year in July without resolving major disagreements on climate policies.

Energy experts said key bottlenecks include nations failing to agree on proposals to cap global emissions of carbon dioxide by 2025, set up a carbon border tax, scale up renewable energy, phase down all fossil fuels and increase aid to nations hit hardest by climate change.

Shayak Sengupta, an energy and research fellow at the Observer Research Foundation America, conceded there were no broad agreements on reducing fossil fuels or increasing renewables.

"However, I was encouraged to see that there were initiatives on specific sectors like green hydrogen, critical minerals, energy efficiency, finance for the energy transition and energy access," said Sengupta, based in Washington.

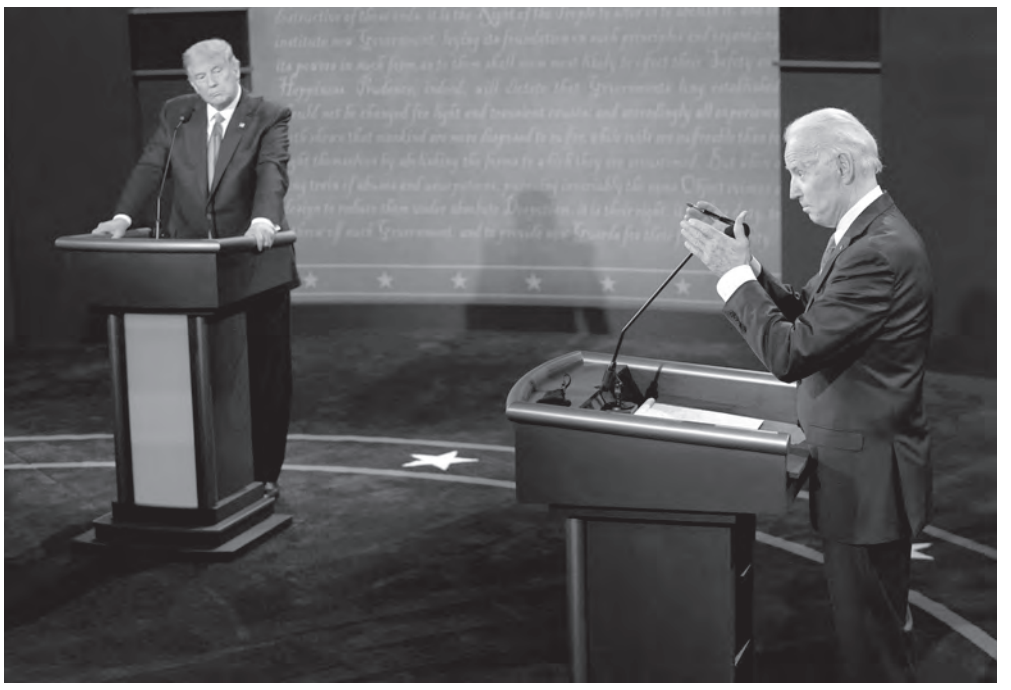
The G20's top leaders will have a last chance to send a strong message of climate action at their meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

The hope is they "will be able to come out with an ambitious agenda that can not only show that the G20 can act but will also bolster confidence going into the global climate meetings in December," said Madhura Joshi, energy analyst at the climate think tank E3G.

Nation

Biden, Trump keeping relatively light campaign schedules

» As their rivals rack up the stops



AP

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden answers a question as President Donald Trump listens during the second and final presidential debate Oct. 22, 2020, at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Their rivals are busy answering voters' questions at town halls across South Carolina, gladhanding with business owners in New Hampshire and grinding to hit every one of Iowa's 99 counties.

But the front-runners for their party's nomination, former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden, are barely campaigning in crucial early-voting states as the primary season enters the fall rush.

Biden is attending a union parade in Philadelphia on Monday. But he has held just one campaign rally in the four-plus months since he formally launched his 2024 reelection bid. Trump, who complained of his Biden's "basement strategy" in 2020, has not campaigned for three weeks now, last appearing at the Iowa State Fair on Aug. 12.

The schedules underscore the reality that Democrat Biden and Republican Trump, despite underwater approval ratings nationally, are the dominant front-runners. Biden faces only token opposition in anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is viewed more favorably by Republicans than Democrats, while Trump is currently beating his closest rival by large margins, according to recent polls.

"When you have a massive lead over your primary opponents, it doesn't seem like a lot of point," said veteran Republican pollster Whit Ayres, speaking about the early-state campaigning typical at this stage of a race.

Biden and Trump have worked to project an air of inevitability four months before voting begins in 2024. Biden has focused on governing and traveling the country to promote his policy accomplishments. Trump repeatedly skips events with other candidates and passed on the first Republican primary debate last month.

But both have different reasons for their relative absence from campaigning.

Trump's team has been consumed by the criminal charges he now faces in four separate jurisdictions accusing him of illegally trying to overturn the results of the 2020 election, improperly classifying hush money payments in business records, mishandling classified documents after leaving office and trying to obstruct that investigation.

Trump has complained that the looming trials will force from campaigning.

"I'm sorry, I won't be able to go to Iowa today, I won't be able to go to New Hampshire today because I'm sitting in a courtroom on bull——," he said during his last visit to New Hampshire, in August.

For now, Trump's bookings and arraignments have actually served as his highest-profile campaign events.

His trips to jails and courthouses in New York, Miami, Washington and Atlanta have dominated coverage of the race, with his movements tracked by news helicopters and broadcast live on television and across the internet. His historic mug shot, now featured on T-shirts, mugs and posters, helped his campaign raise more than $20 million in August alone.

Aides say his schedule will ramp up after the Labor Day weekend, with trips this coming week to Iowa and South Dakota — neither is a key primary or general election state — and California after that. He has also been busy behind the scenes. Beyond golfing and meetings with his lawyers, Trump has called into conservative podcasts, taped videos he releases on his Truth Social network and attended fundraisers, both at his club in Bedminster, New Jersey, and in other states.

Last month, he traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, for a fundraiser that drew several hundreds, including musicians Kid Rock and John Rich and the former NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip, according to a person who attended but asked to remain anonymous to discuss the private gathering at the the Four Seasons hotel.

This past week, Trump hosted the families of members of the military who died during the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan. The week before, he held a fundraiser for the Patriot Freedom Project, a group that supports those who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Minnesota prison reaches resolution with inmates

STILLWATER, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota prison has "resolved without incident" a situation involving about 100 inmates in one housing unit who would not return to their cells Sunday in what one former inmate there called an act of "self-preservation" amid dangerously high temperatures in the region.

The situation was "calm, peaceful and stable throughout the day," a Department of Corrections spokesperson said in a statement, adding that "incarcerated individuals in the unit indicated dissatisfaction" because the understaffed facility had to limit inmates' time out of their cells.

But advocates positioned outside of the Stillwater prison, some of whom have family members inside, said inmates are fed up with the excessive heat, lack of air conditioning and limited access to showers and ice during on and off lockdowns over the past two months.

The prison is in Bayport about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Minneapolis, which was under an afternoon heat advisory for temperatures approaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius).

"My organization got calls from inmates who are actually inside" starting at 6:30 a.m., said Marvina Haynes of Minnesota Wrongfully Convicted Judicial Reform, whose brother is an inmate at Stillwater.

"This morning, they decided that they weren't going to lock into their cells," said David Boehnke of Twin Cities Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee.

The department confirmed that inmates have been in lockdown status because of the holiday weekend, meaning they are kept in their cells, with "limited access facility-wide to out-of-cell time for showers, phone use and recreation." The facility remains on lockdown now, and all inmates have returned to the cells.

The executive director of the union representing Stillwater's correctional officers, Bart Andersen, said in a statement that the incident is "endemic and highlights the truth behind the operations of the MN Department of Corrections with chronic understaffing."

Andersen said such conditions upset inmates because of restrictions on program and recreation time "when there are not enough security staff to protect the facility."

Haynes, Boehnke and Cathy Stroud Caldwell said the inmate action was an impromptu response to unsafe conditions, including access to clean drinking water, which they say is reportedly brown in color. The department said those claims "about a lack of clean water in the facility are patently false."

"They didn't have time to organize and plan," Haynes said. "It was just ... we're not going back to that hot cell with no drinking water and not being able to shower."

Haynes said they hope to meet with officials "to talk about the conditions that inmates are living in" and "solutions for the future."

Intense heat waves across the country have led to amplified concern for prison populations, especially those in poorly ventilated or air-conditioned facilities.

Two correctional officers stayed in a secure control area and in contact with facility staff since the emergency lockdown status was initiated at 8 a.m. There were no injuries, according to the Department of Corrections.

Members of a crisis negotiation team and the Special Operations Response Team were deployed "out of an abundance of caution."

In total, about 1,200 inmates are at the facility just southeast of Stillwater in Bayport, according to department records. It was built in 1914.

Kevin Reese, founder of a criminal justice organization, Until We Are All Free, described Stillwater as a "pizza oven" in the summers. He was incarcerated there during the summers from 2006 through 2009.

ACROSS THE NATION

Burning Man flooding strands tens of thousands; authorities investigating 1 death

BLACK ROCK DESERT, Nev. (AP)—An unusual late-summer storm turned a week-long counterculture fest into a sloppy mess with tens of thousands of partygoers stuck in foot-deep mud and with no working toilets in the northern Nevada desert. But some Burning Man revelers said Sunday that their spirits remained unbroken. Organizers closed the festival to vehicles after one death was reported. Officials provided no details of the fatality. The annual gathering in the Black Rock Desert about 110 miles (177 kilometers) north of Reno attracts nearly 80,000 artists, musicians and activists for a mix of wilderness camping and avant-garde performances. Disruptions are part of the event's recent history: Organizers had to temporarily close entrances to the festival in 2018 due to dust storms, and the event was twice canceled altogether during the pandemic. More than a half an inch (1.3 centimeters) of rain fell at the festival site on Friday, disrupting this year's festival.

Phoenix man let 10-year-old son drive pickup truck on freeway, police say

PHOENIX (AP)—A man has been arrested after allowing his 10-year-old son to drive a pickup truck on a Phoenix-area freeway, authorities said Sunday. Arizona Department of Public Safety officials said the boy led troopers on a brief pursuit Saturday afternoon—weaving and speeding on State Route 101 in Scottsdale—before being pulled over. DPS said the child's 49-year-old father was in the passenger seat. The Phoenix man was booked into the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office jail on suspicion of endangerment, unlawfully permitting a minor to drive and having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle. A motorist called 911 around 3:30 p.m. and said it appeared a child was driving the truck on the freeway, according to DPS. A trooper spotted the vehicle and tried to stop it after seeing the driver changing lanes unsafely. DPS officials said the truck failed to stop and the trooper pursued it before the child driver pulled over in an emergency lane.

Fatal police shooting of pregnant Ohio woman raises concerns over firing at moving vehicles

Body camera video of the fatal police shooting of Ta'Kiya Young, a 21-year-old pregnant mother in a suburb of Columbus, Ohio, has raised questions about how an allegation of shoplifting led to a bullet being fired through her windshield. It was unclear Saturday whether the Blendon Township Police Department has adopted a use-of-force continuum policy, which would outline measures that must be exhausted before lethal force can be used. The video of the Aug. 24 shooting, released Friday, shows Young in her car in a parking space as a police officer orders her to exit the vehicle. A second officer is seen drawing his firearm and stepping in front of the car, despite a department policy advising officers to get out of the way of an approaching vehicle instead of firing their weapon. "Are you going to shoot me?" Young asks, seconds before she turns the steering wheel to the right and the car moves toward the second officer. The officer fires through the windshield and Young's sedan drifts into the grocery store's brick wall. ***(AP)***

Asia

Most people of Taiwan aren't worried about war with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—As People's Liberation Army fighter jets from China sped toward Taiwan on Friday, life on the self-governing island carried on as normal.

Andy Huang, a restaurateur in Taipei, said he has become desensitized to military threats from the mainland.

"I've been hearing about China invading for 30 years," he said.

Taiwan's government is racing to counter China, buying nearly $19 billion in military equipment from the United States, and extending military conscription for men to a year starting in 2024. But many on the island say they don't feel the threat.

That may be partly due to the nuanced views many Taiwanese hold of China. While polls indicate most people on the island reject reunification, many say they are attracted to their much larger neighbor's dynamic economy, and its shared language and culture. Others are simply numb to hearing about the threat in their backyard.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory, and its actions in recent years have led some to fear it is preparing to use force to try to take control of the island. Taiwan has been compared to Ukraine by American lawmakers and Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

AP

Restaurateur Andy Huang speaks during an interview at his restaurant in Taipei, Taiwan, on May 7, 2023.

The island's politicians have not been shy about sounding the alarm. "In order to keep the peace, we need to strengthen ourselves," Tsai said last month at a war memorial commemorating the last time Taiwan and China battled.

Members of the public don't feel that urgency.

Coco Wang is one of the many people who feel a connection to China without considering themselves Chinese. Her grandparents came to Taiwan among people fleeing the 1949 Communist victory in the Chinese Civil War, which left rival governments ruling the mainland and Taiwan. Her grandparents kept in touch with relatives in China, and she remembers summers traveling through the country's rural areas with her parents.

She considers herself Taiwanese, but worked in Shanghai for a year before the pandemic and is thinking of going back.

The opportunities in China are so much bigger, she said. "There's this feeling that if you just go in and you really work at it, then you can really achieve something," she said.

China is Taiwan's largest trading partner, receiving 39% of the island's exports in 2022 despite new trade barriers imposed amid rising tensions.

While Wang feels drawn to China, she acknowledged that it is not entirely possible to leave politics at the door when working there. Colleagues in Shanghai occasionally called her a "Taiwanese separatist."

She knew they meant it as a joke, but it made her uncomfortable. To herself, she thought: "We are already independent. Taiwan is just Taiwan."

US, Indonesia, 5 other nations hold war drills amid China concerns

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Soldiers from the U.S., Indonesia and five other nations began annual training exercises Thursday on Indonesia's main island of Java while China's increasing aggression is raising concern.

American and Indonesian soldiers have held the live-fire Super Garuda Shield drills since 2009, and Australia, Japan and Singapore joined last year. The United Kingdom and French forces are participating in this year's exercises, with a total of about 5,000 personnel.

China sees the expanded drills as a threat, accusing the U.S. of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to limit China's growing military and diplomatic influence in the region.

Brunei, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, and East Timor also sent observers to the two-week exercises in Baluran, a coastal town in East Java province.

The commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific, Gen. Charles Flynn, said the 19 nations involved in the training are a powerful demonstration of multilateral solidarity to safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

"Super Garuda Shield 2023 builds on last year's tremendous success," Flynn said in a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta on Tuesday, "This joint, multinational training exercise displays our collective commitment and like-minded unity, allowing for a stable, secure, and more peaceful, free and open Indo-Pacific."

The statement said at least 2,100 U.S. and 1,900 Indonesian forces will enhance their interoperability capabilities through training and cultural exchanges that include a command and control simulation, an amphibious exercise, airborne operations, an airfield seizure exercise, and a combined joint field training that culminates with a live-fire event.

Garuda Shield is being held in several places, including in waters around Natuna at the southern portion of the South China Sea, a fault line in the rivalry between the U.S. and China.

Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, but Jakarta has expressed concern about what it sees as Chinese encroachment in its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.

The edge of the exclusive economic zone overlaps with Beijing's unilaterally declared "nine-dash line" demarking its claims in the South China Sea.

Increased activities by Chinese coast guard vessels and fishing boats in the area have unnerved Jakarta, prompting Indonesia's navy to conduct a large drill in July 2020 in waters around Natuna.

World

TO DISTRACT FROM IMPORTANT COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Russians press Ukraine in northeast

LYMAN, Ukraine (AP)—Concealed under pine branches in the forests of northeast Ukraine, the muzzle of a Soviet-era howitzer rises, aiming for a group of approaching Russian infantrymen many kilometers away.

A Ukrainian soldier signals to fire, then swiftly runs for cover. The thunderous crash of the unleashed projectile sends a pall of black smoke billowing above jabs of yellow flames. A pile of spent shells in the nearby foliage grows by the day.

Here, along a small section of the 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) front line, Moscow's army is staging a ferocious push designed to pin down Ukrainian forces, distract them from their grinding counteroffensive and minimize the number of troops Kyiv is able to send to more important battles in the south.

The Kremlin tactic threatens to further slow the pace of the counteroffensive that was launched almost three months ago. Kyiv's effort to reclaim Russian-occupied territory has produced minimal gains and heavy losses, and time is running short for Ukrainian troops, who must try to make the most of the last few weeks of the summer fighting season.

The Ukrainian military now considers the battles in the northeast, specifically near the town of Kupiansk, in the northern Kharkiv region, and in the forests near Lyman, to be Russia's main offensive.

At the same time, Ukraine's main offensive operations are focused in the south, where they are inching toward the shores of the Sea of Azov in an apparent bid to cut the land corridor to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized in 2014. Doing this would split in two the Russian-occupied land in southern Ukraine, undermining Moscow's supply lines.

Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar urged observers to measure Ukrainian progress not in kilometers or meters but "by the very fact that we are successful in moving forward in such conditions."

While aiming to keep Ukrainian troops busy along the mostly static northeast front, Russia has also had time to reinforce its defenses in the south, including laying widespread mines, Ukrainian officials said. The deep fortifications have slowed Kyiv's advances in that direction.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainians must deal with limitations in manpower, air power and artillery. And the looming fall rainy season adds even greater urgency to an already difficult battle. The muddy ground will hinder Kyiv's infantry and heavy machinery.

In the south, Ukrainian forces have recently had more success breaking through Russian lines. Since the start of the counteroffensive, Ukraine has advanced 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, overcoming dense Russian fortifications last week to retake the village of Robotyne — Ukraine's first tactically significant victory in that part of the country.

Netanyahu wants Eritrean migrants involved in violent clashes deported

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday he wants Eritrean migrants involved in a violent clash in Tel Aviv to be deported immediately and has ordered a plan to remove all of the country's African migrants.

The remarks came a day after bloody protests by rival groups of Eritreans in south Tel Aviv left dozens of people injured. Eritreans, supporters and opponents of Eritrea's government, faced off with construction lumber, pieces of metal and rocks, smashing shop windows and police cars. Israeli police in riot gear shot tear gas, stun grenades and live rounds while officers on horseback tried to control the protesters.

The violence on Saturday returned to the fore the issue of migrants, which has long divided Israel. Its resurgence comes as Israel is torn over Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan, and supporters cite the migrant issue as a reason why the courts should be reined in, saying they have stood in the way of pushing the migrants out.

"We want harsh measures against the rioters, including the immediate deportation of those who took part," Netanyahu said in a special ministerial meeting called to deal with the aftermath of the violence.

He requested that the ministers present him with plans "for the removal of all the other illegal infiltrators," and noted in his remarks that the Supreme Court struck down some measures meant to coerce the migrants to leave.

Under international law, Israel cannot forcibly send migrants back to a country where their life or liberty may be at risk.

Ahead of an official visit to Cyprus, Netanyahu said the ministerial team was seeking to deport 1,000 supporters of the Eritrean government who were involved in Saturday's violence.

"They have no claim to refugee status. They support this regime," Netanyahu said. "If they support the regime so much, they would do well to return to their country of origin."

About 25,000 African migrants live in Israel, mainly from Sudan and Eritrea, who say they fled conflict or repression. Israel recognizes very few as asylum seekers, seeing them overwhelmingly as economic migrants, and says it has no legal obligation to keep them.

The country has tried a variety of tactics to force them out, including sending some to a remote prison, holding part of their wages until they agree to leave the country or offering cash payments to those who agree to move to another country, somewhere in Africa. Critics accuse the government of trying to coerce the migrants into leaving.

Migrants' supporters say Israel, a country founded upon the ashes of the Holocaust and built up by Jewish refugees, should welcome those seeking asylum. Opponents claim migrants have brought crime to the low-income southern Tel Aviv neighborhoods where they have settled.

Overdrive

Auto review: Ford Bronco Sport tips its hat to its heritage

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

Given its origins, you can be excused for questioning the 2023 Ford Bronco Sport's off-road ability. After all, this subcompact SUV shares its underpinnings with the mild-mannered Ford Escape and the utilitarian Ford Maverick. But it wears couture that recalls the original 1966 Ford Bronco, a clever slight-of-hand made more believable with the appearance of the 2023 Bronco Sport Heritage Edition and Heritage Limited Edition.

That said, this is the smaller of the two Bronco models being flogged by Ford, and in many ways, it's truer to the original, if only because its size is closer to its famous first forebearer. In comparison, the bigger Bronco seems more an oversized cartoon.

Yet technically, the Ford Bronco Sport Heritage Editions are heritage models with no heritage. After all, if the full-size Bronco is considered the current rendition of Ford's off-road rock star, and that has its own Heritage Edition, then these smaller Broncos are what exactly? The second coming of the 1984-1990 Ford Bronco II?

Discuss among yourselves.

While the Ford Bronco Sport has already had its share of special editions, this might be the best one yet. But like all haute couture, it comes at a cost. Whereas the Bronco Sport starts at $29,215 and is available in ascending Base, Big Bend, Outer Banks and Badlands trim, these Heritage models come two ways. There's the $33,400 Heritage Edition, based on the $31,230 Bronco Sport Big Bend, and the $44,655 Heritage Limited Edition model, based on the $38,090 Bronco Sport Badlands.

Ford offered up a Heritage Limited Edition, finished in robin's egg blue with a white roof, white wheels and a white grille with red Bronco lettering. The color was fetching, enhancing its yesteryear aura, one that sets the Wayback Machine to the mid-1960s while remaining acutely contemporary. That's particularly true inside, where wicked-cool plaid-trimmed seating, offsets an instrument panel that shares its accounting department-approved bits and layout with the Ford Escape.

Being that the Heritage Edition model is based on the Bronco Sport Big Bend, it gets the same driveline, one inherited from the Escape: a turbocharged 1.5-liter 3-cylinder engine and 8-speed automatic transmission rated at 181 horsepower and 190 pound-feet of torque. In contrast, the pricier Bronco Sport Heritage Limited Edition, based on the top-of-the-line Badlands model, benefits from a larger, more powerful turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine and an 8-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters that unleashes 250 horsepower and 277 pound-feet of torque. All-wheel drive is standard on both models, as are five selectable terrain driving modes, which Ford dubs GOAT modes, for "Go Over All Terrain." They include Normal, ECO, Sport, Slippery and Sand.

But the Heritage Limited Edition also gets Mud/Ruts and Rock Crawl modes, as well as hill-descent control, trail speed control, 8.8 inches of ground clearance, a locking torque-vectoring rear differential, and a specially tuned suspension for added agility once the sidewalk ends.

Then again, all Bronco Sports prove nimble in the forest primeval, as the Bronco Sport is 7.8 inches shorter than the Escape, allowing for approach and departure angles of 30.4 degrees and 33.1 degrees respectively. So, not only does it look like a baby Bronco, it has the chops of one as well. OK, you will forego some things that you'd be able to get on its bigger brother, like a low range creeper gear or an electronically detachable sway bar. And you can't remove the Bronco Sport's roof or doors, as you can on the Bronco. But you do have access to more than 100 accessories as fashion as well as function is this model's raison d'être.

But don't be fooled. Even without the most extreme off-road equipment, the Bronco Sport can quickly climb a sand-covered hill or effortlessly traverse our deteriorating, trash-strewn interstate highway system. OK, its suspension compliance may slow you down when satisfying your inner Andretti, but it pays big dividends when playing the part of an off-road warrior. The Bronco Sport Heritage Limited Edition's off-road prowess is light years better than an Escape, for it's essentially a smaller, less costly version of the Bronco, not a lesser one

But who am I kidding?

First and foremost, the 2023 Ford Bronco Sport Heritage Limited Edition looks great, with enough style to get even the most jaded of valets talking. Capability? Sure it has it in spades; this is no designer knockoff.

TNS

The 2023 Ford Bronco Sport Heritage Edition.

TNS

It's finished in robin's egg blue with a white roof, white wheels and a white grille with red Bronco lettering.

TNS

The 2023 Ford Bronco Sport Heritage Edition is based on the Bronco Sport Big Bend.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Ford Bronco Sport Heritage Limited Edition

- **Base price**: $44,655
- **Engine**: 2.0-liter EcoBoost 4-cylinder
- **Horsepower/Torque**: 250/277 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway)**: 21/26 mpg
- **Observed fuel economy**: 24 mpg
- **Length/Width/Height**: 172.7/74.3/71.4 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 8.8 inches
- **Payload**: 1,010 pounds
- **Cargo capacity**: 29.4-60.6 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity**: 2,200 pounds

The long and short of it

Q: Love your column even though I'm not a car buff. My problem is that I'm short and my arms are short. When the hatch is opened, the handle is still about 10 inches higher than my hand can reach to pull it down. I see nothing inside the hatch that could be attached to a rope allowing me to pull down the hatch. I called the dealership to see if there's a simple fix for this issue. They said no, so I asked if a hook could be installed inside the hatch. The dealership said no dice, they wouldn't do it. I Googled to see if any other drivers were trying to solve this problem. I found no entries that could help, although I did enjoy one guy's plea to help his short wife. Buy her high heels, he suggested.

—J.M., Evanston, Illinois

A: Although stilettos may make a stunning fashion statement, they are difficult to drive in. I suggest taking your car to an independent repair shop or body shop where they will happily make a custom modification for you.

Q: I bought a 2016 Buick Encore with 85,000 miles a year ago. The check engine light is on most of the time. I have had it checked out and reset numerous times and my dealer said the codes involve the oxygen sensor and that it's not critical. I have unlimited resets at my dealer where I bought this used car. Lately it comes back on the next time I start the car. Is this an expensive repair and is it worth doing since it's post-catalytic converter in the exhaust? Mostly, it's just aggravating to see it on.

—T.P., Brainerd, Minnesota

A: There is some controversy as to the function and need for an after-the-cat sensor. It may aid in fuel mixture control but is much slower to react than the pre-cat sensor. To replace it yourself, the cost is probably under $100. Professional replacement would be higher. Get some quotes.

Q: I just had one of my tires repaired (screw in it) at a reputable tire store. While repairing it they noticed the manufacturer's date on it. They said that manufacturers recommend replacing the tire at seven years old. The tread on the tire was good, and overall, in good shape. Most weeks my wife puts fewer than 30 miles on the tires and the vehicle is parked in the garage. Is this the seven-year manufacturers' ploy to sell new tires, or what?

—J.G., Las Vegas

A: The Tire Manufactures Association says on its website that you need not worry too much about the age of your tires. "Most people drive enough miles every year that their tires will need to be replaced before age becomes an issue. But there are a couple of important cases we want you to know about where age can be more a factor than mileage." To find everything you want to know about tire aging and much more, go to ustires.org/tire-facts.

Q: My new car came already loaded with nitrogen in the tires. Each tire had about 48psi until I questioned that. The steering frequently has some pull to the left and right. After changing tire pressure to 35psi in each tire, I was told that it might take a while for the tires to adjust and help with the pull in steering. What do you think?

—L.S., Colorado Springs, Colorado

A: Tires are overinflated before shipping. It helps avoid flat spots while on the truck or dealer's lot. I think somebody was full of hot air and was blowing you off.

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Life & Style

‘Equalizer 3’ cleans up, while ‘Barbie’ and ‘Oppenheimer’ score new records

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The third installment in the Denzel Washington-led “Equalizer” franchise topped the domestic box office this weekend with $34.5 million according to studio estimates Sunday. By the end of the Monday holiday, Sony expects that total will rise to $42 million.

Labor Day signals the end of Hollywood’s summer movie season, which will surpass $4 billion in ticket sales for the first time since the pandemic thanks in no small part to “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer,” which are still netting records even after seven weeks in theaters. This weekend, Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” officially became the biggest movie of 2023 with over $1.36 billion globally, surpassing “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” while Christopher Nolan’s “Oppenheimer” sailed past $850 million globally to become the No. 3 movie of the year and Nolan’s third highest grossing.

“The Equalizer 3” arrived at a fraught time for Hollywood, with actors seven weeks into a strike for fair contracts with major entertainment companies and movie theaters bracing for a somewhat depleted fall season as a result.

AP

This image released by Sony Pictures Entertainment shows Denzel Washington in a scene from "The Equalizer 3."

The ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike meant Washington was unable to stump for the movie, which was directed by his frequent collaborator Antoine Fuqua and brings his vigilante character Robert McCall to Italy’s Amalfi coast. While the lack of a major star on a promotional tour would normally be considered a liability for a film’s box office potential, “Equalizer 3” may be the rare exception that could withstand a rollout without Washington’s help simply because it’s a recognizable franchise.

“One of the biggest movie stars in the world took us out on a high note,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “Studios often coast to Labor Day, but Sony was smart to choose this weekend to open ‘The Equalizer 3.’”

- “The Equalizer 3,” $34.5 million.
- “Barbie,” $10.6 million.
- “Blue Beetle,” $7.3 million.
- “Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story,” $6.6 million.
- “Oppenheimer,” $5.5 million.
- “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem,” $4.8 million.
- “Bottoms,” $3 million.
- “Meg 2: The Trench,” $2.9 million.
- “Strays,” $2.5 million.
- “Talk to Me,” $1.8 million.

Sony opened the R-rated “Equalizer 3” in over 3,900 locations in North America, including on IMAX and premium large format screens, where it opened in line with the previous two films which both went on to make over $190 million globally. With co-financing from TSG and Eagle Pictures, the film carried a $70 million production price tag. The film received generally positive reviews from critics (76% on Rotten Tomatoes) and overwhelmingly positive reviews from audiences, who gave it an A on CinemaScore and a five-star PostTrak rating.

“It's uncanny the consistency of the Equalizer franchise,” Dergarabedian said.

Overseas, it made $26.1 million, contributing to a $60.6 million global debut.

In second place, “Barbie” added $10.6 million over the weekend in the U.S. and Canada, pushing its domestic total to $609.5 million. Warner Bros.' other main theatrical offering, “Blue Beetle" added $7.3 million to take third. The DC superhero film has grossed $56.6 million in three weekends in North America. Fourth place went to Sony's “Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story,” which is projecting $6.6 million through Sunday, down 62% from its first place opening weekend, and $8.5 million including Monday.

Sweet emotion in Philadelphia as Aerosmith starts its farewell tour, and fans dream on

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Aerosmith is one of the best things to come out of Boston, and soon it will exist only in memories and playbacks—like Tom Brady, “Cheers” and Larry Bird.

The quintet has given the world 50 years of classic rock and some of the most enduring songs of all time, including “Dream On,” “Walk This Way” and “Sweet Emotion.”

Aerosmith began its farewell “Peace Out” tour Saturday in Philadelphia with a two-hour set spanning its voluminous catalog—giving the world one last chance to see what earned these skinny guys from New England an exalted place in the pantheon of rock's all-time greats.

Singer Steven Tyler, guitarists Joe Perry and Brad Whitford, and bassist Tom Hamilton all wore black cowboy hats as they ripped into “Back In The Saddle,” the song that has opened Aerosmith shows for decades as a giant Aerosmith logo folded down from the rafters, flanked by an even bigger set of wings.

Tyler and Perry sang from either side of a microphone stand draped in Tyler's trademark scarves, recreating one of rock's most iconic poses. Tyler nailed the extreme high note at the end of the song, proving that even at age 75 and after a life filled with pharmaceutical misadventures, he can still bring it.

“Love In an Elevator” and “Cryin',” two major radio hits from the late ‘80s and early '90s, followed, setting up the band's controversial hit “Janie's Got A Gun,” a song about a girl who was sexually abused by her father.

The band also tossed fans some rare chestnuts like “No More, No More,” on which Tyler forgot several of the words; “Adam's Apple,” “Seasons Of Wither” and the Mississippi Delta blues-inspired “Hangman Jury.”

But there's only room for so many songs in a two-hour show, and with a catalog as deep as Aerosmith's, some of the biggest hits got cut, including “Dude (Looks Like A Lady)” and “Train Kept A-Rollin',” which often closed the show on previous tours.

That Aerosmith even played Philadelphia is amazing, given its fans' history of injuring band members. In Oct. 1977, someone threw an M80 explosive onstage that went off in Tyler's face, burning his cornea and opening a bloody wound on Perry's arm. A year later, at another Philadelphia show, someone threw a bottle that shattered against an onstage speaker, sending glass shards into Tyler's face and mouth.

Tyler referenced those assaults during Saturday's show, recalling them as “the big bang theory” before Perry shushed him. Tyler quickly changed the subject to the fact that his mother's family came from Philadelphia.

Saturday's show was the 40th that Aerosmith has played in the City of Brotherly Love, and ended without anyone needing paramedics.

There were the typical opening-night glitches. Tyler started singing the chorus of “Dream On” a verse too soon before catching himself. Perry's guitar died a few notes into the iconic opening riff to “Walk This Way." And after a masterful harmonica solo on “Hangman Jury,” Tyler tossed the small instrument backwards over his shoulder, only to realize he'd need it again at the end of the song. A roadie was summoned to hand it back to him.

Relationship with husband’s daughter eroded over time

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to “Frank” for 2 1/2 years. We met and married quickly. Best decision ever. We each had raised two daughters as single parents with different parenting styles. Our girls now range in age from 30 to 33. They are adults with lives and children of their own.

My daughters have accepted and come to love Frank. They have always been respectful and inclusive. In the beginning, his daughters treated me OK. But after six months, the older one decided I could not be around her children because I “don’t like her.” I always treated her respectfully and did many things for her and her kids -- babysitting, buying them things they needed, twice offering a place to stay when she was going through a divorce.

She was always the boss of her father, and he puts her first over all else. There were things they would do secretly and exclude me. Now he doesn’t see them at all. They don’t talk; they explode. I’m certain at some point I will be blamed for “keeping him away.” I no longer want anything to do with her, but I encourage Frank to see his grandchildren. I’m an emotional mess over this. What do I do?

BLENDING BADLY IN NEVADA

DEAR BLENDING BADLY: Because your husband’s family dysfunction is affecting your emotional well-being, consult a licensed mental health professional to help rid yourself of this undeserved burden. Because someone chooses to blame you for something you haven’t done doesn’t mean you must accept it. If you still have a relationship with your husband’s other daughter, concentrate on her and you will all be happier.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a longtime friend who is the queen of the hypochondriacs. She is always sick or complaining that something is wrong with her, but she does nothing to improve her health. She has gone to holistic doctors for years, to no avail.

I suggested it’s time for her to consult regular doctors, since holistic ones weren’t helping and because she doesn’t follow their advice anyway. She has made appointments with regular doctors but has too much anxiety to go.

She has been excluded from activities with friends because she’s always sick, but doesn’t understand why she has only one friend. She also talks incessantly about her abusive, narcissistic mother, but doesn’t realize she is a bit narcissistic herself. Should I tell her what I think about her or just keep it to myself?

PEEVED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PEEVED: If she is hesitant to see a doctor who might actually get to the cause of her problems, it’s probably because she’s afraid of what she might hear. Of course, people who procrastinate for years are more likely to get bad news than those who are determined to nip any problem in the bud.

If you can suppress your annoyance, instead of calling her something unpleasant, it would be more helpful to point out that hiding one’s head in the sand is not an answer, and volunteer to go with her to her appointment. That’s what a true friend does.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

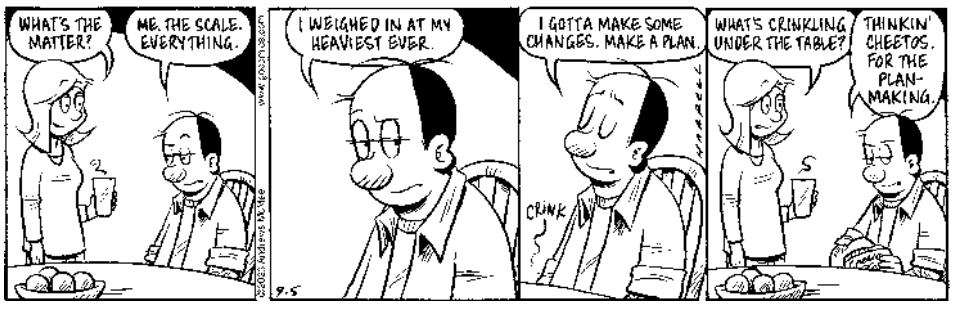
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ME. THE SCALE. EVERYTHING.
I WEIGHED IN AT MY HEAVIEST EVER.
I GOTTA MAKE SOME CHANGES. MAKE A PLAN.
CRUNK
WHAT'S CRINKLING UNDER THE TABLE?
THINKIN' CHEETOS. FOR THE PLAN-MAKING.
9-5

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHERE DO YOU SEE THIS RELATIONSHIP GOING?
WELL, SITTING ON THE COUCH, WATCHING THE BALLGAME WHILE I DRINK BEER.
I MEAN LONG TERM.
OKAY, IT COULD GO EXTRA INNINGS!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Mad Money" network
5 "Mic Drop" K-pop band
8 Declares
12 Circle dance
13 Internet address
14 "Star Trek" counselor
15 Prof's employer
16 Zero
18 Most like sticky buns
20 Tom Sawyer creator
21 Author Tan
22 Anger
23 Brainy
26 Prima-tologist Jane
30 New England cape
31 Gaiety
32 Brit's restroom
33 Uses an online engine
36 Trades
38 Singer Phair
39 Sheep's cry
40 "Va-moose!"
43 Play video games at work, say
47 Farewells
49 Drifting ice
50 Whig's rival
51 Reply (Abbr.)
52 Pride parade initialism
53 "The — the limit!"
54 Lock opener
55 Lighten

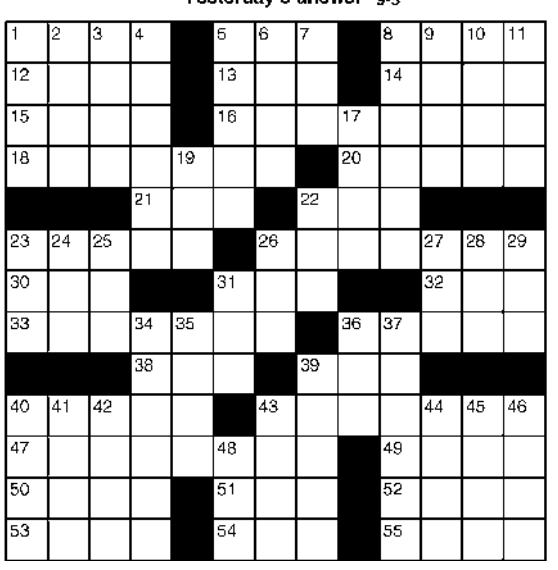
DOWN

1 Guzzle
2 Taboo
3 Vivacity, in music
4 Pricey spread
5 "— Malone" (gangster comedy)
6 Jog
7 — -mo
8 Intoxi-cated
9 Vicinity
10 Boo-Boo's buddy
11 Billboard
17 Houston base-baller, briefly
19 Ambu-lance VIP
22 Bit of physics
23 Droop
24 6 on a phone
25 Year in Spain
26 Gloomy guy
27 Pie — mode
28 Prune
29 — Alamos
31 City in Morocco
34 Singer Knight
35 Branch
36 — Paulo
37 Break-fast item
39 Over-bearing
40 USMC ranks
41 Diner employee
42 "Gilmore Girls" daughter
43 Chromo-some part
44 "Three Sisters" sister
45 Watch chains
46 Fancy party
48 Tibetan beast

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	M	A	C	■	T	A	C	■	G	E	R	M
D	O	J	O	■	E	G	O	■	A	N	Y	A
O	L	A	Y	■	L	A	B	O	R	D	A	Y
S	T	R	O	I	I	■	B	A	R	O	N	S
■	■	■	T	E	S	S	■	F	E	R	■	■
L	A	T	E	D	A	T	E	■	T	S	A	R
U	R	I	■	A	L	O	N	E	■	E	M	U
G	E	T	S	■	L	U	C	K	Y	D	O	G
■	■	A	L	E	■	T	H	E	A	■	■	■
A	N	N	U	L	S	■	A	D	M	I	T	S
L	A	I	D	D	O	W	N	■	A	B	A	G
C	R	U	G	■	L	O	T	■	H	A	R	T
A	C	M	E	■	D	E	S	■	A	R	T	S

Yesterday's answer 9-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jade Payton, 31; Kat Graham, 34; Rose McGowan, 50; Michael Keaton, 72.

Happy Birthday: Take a walk down memory lane and you'll get a reminder that can change how you manage your time this year. Be open to the alterations around you and look for opportunities to make the most out of whatever situation you encounter. Don't hesitate because you think you aren't ready; now is the time to play your hand and put your dreams, hopes and wishes first. Your numbers are 2, 14, 23, 27, 34, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Contact someone with insight into something you want to pursue. Ask how much time, effort and money are at stake before you sign up or make promises you may not want to keep. Nurture a meaningful relationship and you'll get help reaching your goal. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of business and build an excellent reputation. Being responsible and doing what you say will turn you into the go-to person among your peers. Take pride in what you do; rewards will come your way. Choose modesty over arrogance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Sign up for something that requires you to be physical or competitive. Get your body moving and a healthy routine in place, and see how good you feel. A social or networking event will encourage new connections. Listen carefully before sharing personal information. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be a team player. A chance to change your financial position is apparent. Look at investments, apply for a job with a higher salary or sell off items you no longer use. Let go of situations that trigger emotional or physical overindulgence. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't neglect your responsibilities, but stop fretting over things you can't control. Redirect your energy toward something that puts a smile on your face. Reach out to a friend, catch up on the latest news or do something to accentuate your appearance. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Let your qualifications precede you; the rest will be history. Confidence will put you out front of any competition you face. A change of attitude will be all it takes to captivate an audience. An investment in yourself will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Channel your energy into your home and family, and make your space more comfortable. Invest time and money into updates or making a move that fits your budget and status. The aim is to boost your morale and ease stress. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Initiate change to make your life easier and more enjoyable. Get involved in something you've always wanted to pursue. Live life your way and you'll see how nicely everything falls into place. A partnership will take an upward turn if you take control. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't share personal information. Choose to focus on learning, taking care of unfinished business and heading in a direction that allows you to use what you enjoy doing most to get ahead. Visit someone you share common goals with and admire. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* It's OK to be different and to take a path that changes your lifestyle or challenges you to improve. Don't let anger set in if someone doesn't care to follow your lead. Do what suits you, and allow others the same privilege. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll butt heads with someone close to you if you aren't accommodating. A reserved attitude will help bypass an argument and allow you the freedom to pursue something more engaging. Personal improvements will improve relationships and put your mind at ease. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You may want to reserve judgment when dealing with emotional issues. Listen to information shared, but don't get involved in someone's battles. Use your insight to guide you about money matters and joint ventures to save yourself time, effort and cash. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are responsive, insightful and opportunity-driven. You are helpful and caring.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4	6					3		
						5		
			7	6	3	4	9	2
6			3	7		8	2	
			8	5		6		3
8	4		6		2		7	5
5			2		9	7		
	3		4	1			5	6
	9	4		8	6			

Difficulty: ★★ 9/5

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	4	8	1	9	7	5	2	3
2	7	3	8	5	6	9	1	4
1	5	9	2	3	4	6	8	7
8	6	4	5	1	2	3	7	9
5	9	2	3	7	8	1	4	6
7	3	1	4	6	9	2	5	8
9	1	7	6	4	5	8	3	2
4	8	5	9	2	3	7	6	1
3	2	6	7	8	1	4	9	5

Difficulty: ★ 9/4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

KEY WEST, FLORIDA Solution: 8 letters

V	L	E	V	R	E	S	E	R	P	A	S	T	E	L
S	A	I	T	S	E	F	R	E	T	S	B	O	L	H
S	I	C	G	T	C	S	M	A	T	H	E	R	S	E
T	M	M	A	H	M	R	G	S	T	Y	L	E	H	M
R	U	R	O	T	T	N	U	T	F	O	R	T	Y	I
O	I	H	G	N	I	H	S	I	F	L	A	A	L	N
P	R	N	C	V	T	O	O	G	S	B	U	E	F	G
S	A	E	I	A	U	O	N	U	N	E	K	G	R	W
R	U	D	L	T	E	S	N	U	S	R	S	N	E	A
E	Q	D	H	E	T	B	S	A	O	E	E	W	T	Y
T	A	N	C	R	V	L	R	N	T	R	U	O	T	K
A	O	A	O	C	O	A	S	T	V	U	H	T	U	C
W	S	S	F	E	E	R	R	G	U	A	R	D	B	U
A	E	Y	E	L	L	O	R	T	K	A	Y	A	K	L
R	E	H	C	N	O	C	E	C	N	E	R	A	L	C

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Aquarium, Beach, Butterfly, Casa, Clarence, Coast, Conch, Coral, Cruise, Diving, East, Fishing, Fort, Guard, Gulf, Hemingway, Hues, Kayak, Lighthouse, Lobsterfest, Lucky, Natural, Pastel, Pirates, Preserve, Reef, Resorts, Sand, Simonton, Smathers, Snorkel, South, Style, Sunbathe, Tour, Town, Traveler, Trolley, Vacation, Watersports

Yesterday's Answer: Batter

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

US falls to Lithuania but still qualifies for Paris Olympics

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The U.S. is assured of going to the Paris Olympics. That's good. It also has a quarterfinal game at the World Cup awaiting Tuesday. That's also good.

Thing is, the only celebrating in Manila on Sunday night was done by the guys in the other locker room.

It will not be an undefeated summer for the Americans, not after Lithuania—with a mix of pizzazz from outside and power down low—led for all but a few very early moments against the only World Cup team composed entirely of NBA players.

The final score: Lithuania 110, U.S. 104. The winners went a staggering 9 for 9 from 3-point range to open the game and set a tone, bullied their way to a 43-27 rebounding edge and had seven players in double figures with two others just one point shy of joining that club.

"We're fortunate that the loss doesn't hurt us in terms of our goal, which is to win the gold medal," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "But it's a great game for us to experience because this is FIBA. There's some great teams that have continuity, that understand what they're doing, that execute and I thought Lithuania was brilliant tonight. They deserved to win."

Vaidas Kariniauskas scored 15 points, Mindaugas Kuzminskas added 14 and Lithuania (5-0) wound up winning its second-round group, which really only matters for seeding purposes. Lithuania gets Serbia in Tuesday's quarterfinals, while the U.S. will face Italy.

The other quarterfinals are Wednesday: Germany vs. Latvia and Canada vs. Slovenia.

"In (the) locker room, I said to our guys to celebrate shortly and save all the energy and emotions also for the upcoming game," Lithuania coach Kazys Maksvytis said. "It's very hard. We got one of the biggest wins in our career, but we don't have time to celebrate this. Serbia's waiting and they're not waiting for us with flowers and the red carpet."

The loss—the first for the U.S. in 10 games this summer, counting five exhibitions on the way to the World Cup—came on a night when the Americans officially clinched a berth in the Paris Games.

And the loss won't change the mission going forward in the World Cup medal chase, either. Win Tuesday, win Friday and win next Sunday, and the Americans are gold medalists. Sounds simple. But Lithuania showed it won't be.

"Got to give them credit," U.S. point guard Jalen Brunson said. "They came out ready to play. Lot of respect to them."

AP

Lithuania's Jonas Valanciunas (17) and Donatas Motiejunas (20) thank their fans following a win over the United States in a Basketball World Cup second-round match in Manila, Philippines Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023

But it was a still a shocker, especially for a U.S. team that was the overwhelming favorite to win the gold. Anthony Edwards led the U.S. with 35 points, his high of the summer, while Brunson and Mikal Bridges each added 14.

"We'll get to play again," Edwards said. "That's all I'm thinking about is the next game."

For Lithuania (5-0), it became another night to remember against USA Basketball. And the nation once famous for the tie-dyed T-shirts — some of them were worn by fans in the building Sunday night, who chanted and waved flags from the moment they entered until long after the final buzzer — sent a clear message to the Americans and anyone else still in this World Cup.

Lithuania has pushed the U.S. to the limit, and beyond, more than a few times. Lithuania lost to the Americans by nine in a preliminary game at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, then escaped with a two-point win in the semifinals — and remained unbeaten in the Dream Team Olympic era — when Sarunas Jasikevicius' 3-point try as time expired fell short.

Those weren't the only close calls or worse. Lithuania beat the U.S. at the 1998 world championships (what the World Cup was called then) and in the early rounds of the 2004 Athens Olympics. It also gave the Americans all they wanted in the 2012 London Olympics, falling 99-94 in a preliminary round matchup where the U.S. briefly trailed in the fourth quarter.

"It's a big win for our country, for players, for coaches, to play against the best in the world," Kariniauskas said. "I'm happy for my country ... and we don't need to stop now."

In a game that didn't matter much as far as medal hopes, considering both teams came into Sunday with spots secured for the quarterfinals, there was a lot to unpack.

Lithuania rode that 9-for-9 start from 3-point range on the way to an early 21-point lead, and the U.S. became Paris-bound in the third quarter when Serbia's win over the Dominican Republic clinched an Olympic berth for the Americans.

And right around the time Serbia closed out its win, the U.S. kicked into high gear.

It took the Americans less than half of the third quarter—4 minutes and 16 seconds—to cut what was a 17-point halftime deficit down to four, and the comeback attempt was on. But Lithuania never lost the lead, no matter what the U.S. tried.

The Americans secured an automatic berth into the Paris Games as one of the two highest finishers from the Americas Region at the Basketball World Cup. Canada got the other berth later Sunday when it ousted defending World Cup champion Spain from this tournament.

"It doesn't ease the pain of the loss that we had tonight for us," Kerr said. "But to be honest, I'm not worried about this Olympics. I'm worried about this. We want to win the World Cup. That's our focus."

Kariniauskas had a viral moment when he wagged his tongue at U.S. guard Austin Reaves after a first-half score. Turns out, it was planned. Kariniauskas played this past season with Reaves' brother Spencer—and Austin's brother encouraged his teammate to talk trash. "That's it. Nothing special," Kariniauskas said. Lithuania has won its last six World Cup games, the second-longest active streak behind Germany's eight in a row.

Edwards was 14 for 26 from the field. The U.S. is averaging 101.8 points in the tournament and bidding to average at least 100 points per game for the sixth time in its 19 World Cup appearances. The U.S. fell to 133-30 all-time in World Cup play.

ITALY 73, PUERTO RICO 57

At Manila, Philippines, Stefano Tonut and Giampaolo Ricci each scored 15 points and Italy reached the World Cup quarterfinals with win over Puerto Rico on the final day of second-round play at FIBA's biggest tournament.

Italy (4-1) will play either the U.S. or Lithuania in Tuesday's quarterfinals in Manila. The Italians are assured of their best World Cup finish since placing sixth in 1998. They were ninth in 2006, 10th in 2019 and didn't qualify in 2002, 2010 and 2014.

Simone Fontecchio added 12 points and 12 rebounds for Italy, and Luigi Datome scored 11. Italy used a 15-0 run in the first quarter to take some control, wound up losing that lead in the third quarter, rallied to take a slight edge into the final period and pulled away from there.

Tremont Waters scored 13 points and had nine assists for Puerto Rico (3-2), and Jordan Howard scored 11. Puerto Rico was bidding for its first World Cup quarterfinal trip since 2002.

CANADA 88, SPAIN 85

At Jakarta, Indonesia, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points and Canada rallied from 12 points down entering the final quarter to not only clinch a quarterfinal berth but grab a spot in the Paris Olympics as well.

Dillon Brooks scored 22 points and RJ Barrett added 16 for Canada (4-1), which watched Alex Abrines' shot from near halfcourt bounce off the rim as time expired.

Willy Hernangomez scored 25 for Spain (3-2), Santi Aldama had 20 and Abrines added 11.

LATVIA 104, BRAZIL 84

At Jakarta, Latvia—in the World Cup for the first time—ran away from Brazil in the second half to turn a close game into a rout and made the quarterfinals.

Andrejs Grazulis scored 24 for Latvia (4-1) and Arturs Zagars added 17 for the winners, who will play Germany or Slovenia in Wednesday's quarterfinals. Latvia led by three at the half, then outscored Brazil 36-21 in the third quarter.

Davis Bertans scored 14 for Latvia, which outscored Brazil 48-21 from 3-point range. Bruno Caboclo scored 20 for Brazil (3-2), which was seeking its third quarterfinals trip since 1990.

SERBIA 112, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 79

At Manila, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 20 points and Serbia advanced to the quarterfinals, a result that eliminated the Dominican Republic and clinched an Olympic berth for the U.S.

Servia (4-1) had six players in double figures, with Vanja Marinkovic and Nikola Milutinov scoring 16 and Filip Petrusev adding 14.

The Dominican Republic (3-2) was led by Karl-Anthony Towns with 25 and Jean Montero with 15. Serbia shot 66% in the game.

GERMANY 100, SLOVENIA 71

At Okinawa, Japan, Dennis Schroder scored 24 points and Germany (5-0) rolled past Slovenia in a matchup of teams that knew they were headed to the quarterfinals.

Daniel Theis added 14 points and seven rebounds for the winners.

Luka Doncic led Slovenia (4-1) with 23 points and Klemen Prepelic had 12. Germany outscored Slovenia 45-21 on 3-pointers.

AUSTRALIA 100, GEORGIA 84

At Okinawa, Patty Mills scored 19 points and Australia had five players reach double figures in a relatively easy win over Georgia in a classification round game that ended the tournament run for both teams.

Dante Exum had 18, Duop Reath added 16, Josh Giddey scored 15 and Joe Ingles finished with 10 for the Boomers (3-2).

Both teams were previously eliminated from advancing to the quarterfinals. Australia, the Olympic bronze medalist two summers ago in Tokyo, saw its hopes end Friday with a 90-81 loss to Slovenia. But Australia achieved one goal at this World Cup: clinching a spot in next summer's Paris Olympics.

Playing in its first World Cup, Georgia was led by Goga Bitadze with 20. Thaddus McFadden had 18 points and nine assists for Georgia (2-3).

MONTENEGRO 73, GREECE 69

At Manila, Nikola Vucevic scored 19 points, Dino Radoncic added 12 and Montenegro (3-2) ended its World Cup by hanging on for a win in a classification round game.

Ioannis Papapetrou had 16 points for Greece (2-3) in its finale, while Lefteris Bochoridis and Kostas Papanikolaou each scored 13.

Miller pitches Dodgers past Braves to prevent 4-game sweep in clash of NL's best

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rookie right-hander Bobby Miller threw a career-best seven innings of three-hit ball, and the Los Angeles Dodgers avoided a four-game sweep with a 3-1 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday to complete their meeting of the NL's top two teams.

Miguel Rojas had an RBI double and Mookie Betts added a run-scoring single in the fifth for the Dodgers, who prevented Atlanta from sweeping a four-game series at Dodger Stadium for the first time. James Outman added an RBI single in the eighth for Los Angeles.

Matt Olson hit his 44th home run in the seventh to pull even with Shohei Ohtani for the major league lead, but Atlanta's six-game winning streak ended with only its second loss on a 10-game West Coast trip. The Braves still have the majors' best record at 90-46.

Miller (9-3) underlined his ace potential with this effort against the powerhouse Braves less than four months after he made his major league debut with a solid outing in Atlanta. The 24-year-old retired 16 consecutive Braves between Marcell Ozuna's double in the second and Olson's homer, then finished the seventh to a standing ovation.

Miller outpitched 39-year-old Charlie Morton (14-11), who yielded six hits and three walks in four-plus innings for Atlanta.

Brusdar Graterol allowed two baserunners in the ninth, but hung on for his seventh save.

Ronald Acuña Jr. went 0 for 4 after homering in each of the series' first three games.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Bobby Miller (70) throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Los Angeles, Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023.

METS 6, MARINERS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Alonso homered twice and drove in four runs, reaching 40 homers and 100 RBIs for the second consecutive season as New York topped first-place Seattle.

Jeff McNeil also went deep—after finishing a homer shy of the cycle Saturday night—and the Mets took two of three games from the Mariners to hand them their first series loss since Aug. 11-13 against Baltimore.

Seattle began the day leading the AL West by one game over Houston.

Alonso hit an RBI single in the first inning before his two-run shot in the third made him the fifth player in major league history with at least three 40-homer seasons in his first five campaigns, joining Hall of Famers Ralph Kiner and Eddie Matthews as well as Ryan Howard and Albert Pujols.

Alonso's solo homer in the seventh gave him 100 RBIs for the third time.

YANKEES 6, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Prized rookie Jasson Domínguez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning to help New York complete a three-game sweep of Houston.

It was the second home run in three career games for the 20-year-old Domínguez, who became the youngest Yankees player to go deep in his major league debut Friday night when he hit a two-run shot off Justin Verlander in his first at-bat.

Houston's weekend slide came after a five-game winning streak and it left the Astros a game behind the first-place Mariners and tied for second with the Texas Rangers in a tight AL West race.

For the last-place Yankees, the series was a bright spot in a dismal season. It was their first sweep of the Astros since September 2013.

Gleyber Torres added a solo homer in the ninth after missing two games with lower back tightness. New York rookie Austin Wells had an RBI double for his first career extra-base hit.

RANGERS 6, TWINS 5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Adolis García homered leading off the bottom of the ninth inning after striking out his first four times up, lifting struggling Texas over Minnesota.

García drove in his 100th run of the season on his 34th homer, a 430-foot drive into the second deck in left field.

Mitch Garver was on deck when García connected off Josh Winder (2-1), having twice given the Rangers the lead with homers among his four hits and four RBIs.

Texas ended up squandering three leads before finally winning for just the fourth time in 16 games. The Rangers pulled within a game of Seattle, which leads the AL West after Texas spent 140 consecutive days atop the division.

Royce Lewis twice matched Garver to get the AL Central-leading Twins even, first with a three-run homer in the fifth after Garver's three-run shot in the first. Lewis' RBI single for a 5-5 tie in the eighth came after Garver's leadoff homer in the seventh.

PHILLIES 4, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Alec Bohm and J.T. Realmuto hit back-to-back homers to open the seventh inning and Philadelphia, held hitless until the sixth, defeated Milwaukee to avoid being swept.

Wade Miley (7-4) silenced the Phillies for much of the day as the Brewers built a 2-0 lead. He didn't allow a hit until Trea Turner's two-out single in the sixth. Nick Castellanos followed with an RBI double.

Turner added a two-out RBI single in the seventh that made it 4-2. He failed to homer after going deep in five consecutive games to tie a Phillies record.

William Contreras and Mark Canha homered for the NL Central-leading Brewers.

ORIOLES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 5

PHOENIX (AP)—Adley Rutschman and pinch-hitter Jordan Westburg each had a pivotal double in a four-run sixth inning, breaking open a tight game and sending Baltimore past Arizona.

The AL East-leading Orioles took two of three in the series, winning the final two.

Arizona has lost five of six. The Diamondbacks are tied with the Giants and Marlins for the final playoff spot in the National League wild-card race.

The Orioles broke a 4-all tie in the sixth and chased NL Cy Young Award contender Zac Gallen (14-7), roughed up for a second straight start. Corbin Carroll, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Christian Walker homered for Arizona.

RAYS 6, GUARDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Taylor Walls drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Tampa Bay salvaged the series finale with a win over Cleveland, which missed a chance to gain ground on Minnesota in the AL Central.

Walls lined a single off Trevor Stephan (6-5) to bring home Jose Siri, who slid headfirst and safely around rookie catcher Bo Naylor's attempted sweep tag. Siri had walked with two outs and stole second.

René Pinto hit a two-run homer for the Rays, who added three runs in the ninth off reliever Eli Morgan.

The Guardians got only five hits and stayed five games behind the first-place Twins, who open a critical three-game series at Progressive Field starting Monday.

CUBS 15, REDS 7

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ian Happ drove in four runs, Mike Tauchman and Cody Bellinger each had three RBIs and Chicago pounded Cincinnati to split a critical four-game series between NL Central playoff contenders.

Nick Madrigal and Tauchman each knocked in two runs with a bases-loaded single off All-Star closer Alexis Díaz in a seven-run Cubs eighth. Dansby Swanson added a two-run double.

The Cubs, who banged out 18 hits, scored three more in the ninth, including a solo homer by Jeimer Candelario.

Tyler Stephenson had three RBIs for the Reds, including a two-run homer in the second inning. TJ Friedl and Spencer Steer hit back-to-back homers in the first off Cubs starter Jameson Taillon.

PADRES 4, GIANTS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Juan Soto homered for the third straight game and Manny Machado also connected as San Diego blanked San Francisco to win the final three games of a four-game series against the wild card-contending Giants.

Seth Lugo (6-6) held the Giants to three hits in six innings. Three relievers finished the four-hitter, with Josh Hader striking out three in the ninth.

Xander Bogaerts had four hits and Machado added three for the Padres, who will try to win four straight games for the first time this season Monday when they welcome Philadelphia, which beat them in the NLCS last year.

MARLINS 6, NATIONALS 4

WASHINGTON (AP)—Luis Arráez led off the game with his sixth homer and scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error in the ninth inning as Miami completed its first four-game sweep of Washington.

Sandy Alcantara (7-12) pitched eight strong innings and the Marlins moved three games over .500 in September for the first time in a full season since 2010. Miami is tied with San Francisco and Arizona for the final NL wild card, with Cincinnati just behind.

RED SOX 7, ROYALS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Masataka Yoshida hit a three-run homer and Adam Duvall had a solo shot to back Chris Sale as Boston beat Kansas City.

Sale (6-3) pitched five scoreless innings and struck out five, the first time he hasn't allowed a run in a start since July 12 last season.

The Red Sox have won two straight after losing five in a row and six of seven. They are 5 1/2 games behind Texas for the final AL wild card.

TIGERS 3, WHITE SOX 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Spencer Torkelson hit a tiebreaking home run, Tarik Skubal pitched seven solid innings and Detroit ran its winning streak to four with a victory over Chicago.

Torkelson connected off Aaron Bummer (4-4) in the seventh inning for his team-leading 25th homer. Carson Kelly had a two-run double in the second as the Tigers completed a three-game sweep.

Eloy Jiménez and Elvis Andrus had RBIs for Chicago, which has lost three in a row and five of six. Tim Anderson got his 1,000th career hit.

BLUE JAYS 7, ROCKIES 5

DENVER (AP)—Whit Merrifield hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth inning and Toronto beat Colorado to take two of three in the series.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered and singled to drive in a pair of runs and Spencer Horwitz, a late fill-in for ailing Brandon Belt, added three hits, including his first career home run to help Toronto remain 1 1/2 games behind Texas for the final AL wild card.

ATHLETICS 10, ANGELS 6

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Pinch-hitter Tony Kemp had a two-run single that put Oakland ahead in a six-run seventh inning, and the Athletics rallied past Los Angeles to finish a three-game sweep.

Shea Langeliers added a two-run double for Oakland. Ryan Noda and pinch-hitter Seth Brown each launched a two-run homer in the sixth to begin the comeback after the last-place A's were held hitless through five innings.

Oakland blew a 4-3 lead in the top of the seventh on Luis Rengifo's 15th home run before storming back in the bottom half with the help of throwing errors by reliever José Soriano (0-1) and center fielder Mickey Moniak.

CARDINALS 6, PIRATES 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Jordan Walker homered and Zack Thompson tossed seven effective innings to lead St. Louis over Pittsburgh.

Nolan Gorman added a two-run single for the Cardinals, who avoided a three-game sweep. Alec Burleson broke a 3-all tie with a two-run single in the fourth.

Miguel Andujar homered for the Pirates, who had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Walker gave the Cardinals a 3-1 lead with his 14th homer in the third. He also doubled and scored in the seventh.

Swiatek's title defense and stay at No. 1 end with loss to Ostapenko

NEW YORK (AP)—Iga Swiatek arrived at the U.S. Open as its reigning champion, as the winner at three of the past six Grand Slam tournaments and as the owner of the No. 1 ranking for nearly 1 1/2 years.

None of that mattered on Sunday night against Jelena Ostapenko, whose powerful style disrupts Swiatek's rhythm—and beats her every time.

Swiatek's title defense at Flushing Meadows ended in the fourth round with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 loss to 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko in the fourth round at Arthur Ashe Stadium. The result also means Swiatek's stay at atop the WTA will end next week, when current No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka will rise to the top spot for the first time.

"There are some sad emotions" about falling from No. 1, Swiatek acknowledged, while also saying of her reign atop women's tennis: "It was pretty exhausting."

Not long after being assured of losing her grip on that perch, the 22-year-old from Poland already was thinking ahead to returning there.

"For sure when I'm going to be, next time, in the same situation, I'm going to do some stuff differently," Swiatek said, "because it was a little bit stressful, and it shouldn't be."

She also sounded mystified about what happened out there Sunday.

"I'm just surprised that my level changed so drastically, because usually when I play bad, I play bad at the beginning, then I kind of catch up or just problem solve. This time it was totally the opposite," Swiatek said. "I don't really know what happened with my game. I felt no control suddenly."

The 20th-seeded Ostapenko, a 26-year-old from Latvia, offered a theory.

"The main thing is that she doesn't really like to play against big hitters. ... She likes to have some time," said Ostapenko, who accumulated 31 winners to 18 for Swiatek. "When I play fast, aggressive and powerful, she's a little bit in trouble."

Ostapenko also finished with just 20 unforced errors—quite an improvement from the 80 she had in her second-round victory last week.

When a reporter mentioned Sunday's total, Ostapenko smiled and said, "Not bad."

In truth, this was not necessarily a huge surprise, based on their previous matchups: Ostapenko improved to 4-0 against Swiatek over their careers. No other player owns four victories against the woman who has led the WTA rankings since April 2022.

After getting off to a terrific start to the second set, which she led 4-1, Ostapenko wavered for a bit. That allowed Swiatek to get a break back and pull to 4-3.

But that was only a blip.

With Swiatek having trouble serving—perhaps owing to all of the squeaking Ostapenko's shoes did as she moved around during the ball toss while waiting to return—the contest quickly tilted in one direction. Ostapenko reeled off seven consecutive games to go up 5-0 in the third set.

Ostapenko broke one last time to end it, meaning she won seven of Swiatek's 13 service games in the match.

And Swiatek could not explain why she did not have that same amount of mistakes against Ostapenko's serve.

"My mistakes were so huge, and I had no idea why suddenly I couldn't return," Swiatek said. "I'm a good returner."

Ostapenko's first quarterfinal at Flushing Meadows will come against Coco Gauff, the 19-year-old American who eliminated Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 earlier Sunday.

Ostapenko and Gauff have split two previous meetings. The most recent came in the fourth round of the Australian Open in January, and Ostapenko won that one.

"She's a great young player," Ostapenko said about Gauff. "Of course it's going to be another tough match. I don't expect any easy matches at a Grand Slam."

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic did not encounter any of the sort of trouble he did in his previous match, eliminating qualifier Borna Gojo 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 on Sunday night to reach the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

AP

Jelena Ostapenko, of Latvia, serves to Iga Swiatek, of Poland, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023, in New York.

Djokovic—who has won three of his men's record 23 Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows—needed to come back from a two-set deficit in the third round before eventually winning in five against Laslo Djere.

This time, Djokovic played far more cleanly and was in control throughout. He finished with only 12 unforced errors, while Gojo made 40.

"Just glad to get through in straight sets," said the second-seeded Djokovic, who already is assured of replacing Carlos Alcaraz at No. 1 in the ATP rankings next week.

Djokovic won five of the big-serving Gojo's 15 service games while only getting broken once himself.

Next up for Djokovic will be a matchup against No. 9 seed Taylor Fritz, a 25-year-old from California, who is the only remaining player in the men's bracket to not have dropped a set so far.

Djokovic owns a 7-0 head-to-head career record against Fritz.

"I'm not going to talk about what he needs to do to have a chance against me. I'm sure he's going to try to figure that out with his coach," Djokovic said. "I'm going to get ready, obviously, for that match as any other match, doing my analytics, watching the last match we had against each other."

MANGARERO

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for his worst hole—he bogeyed the par-5 hole in hole No. 18 because he shot it into the nearby trees, Mangarero said with a chuckle. "Normally on a par 5, you would make a birdie or a par—but to get a bogey on a par 5, it's not good," he said. "Overall, it could be better."

The Refaluwasch Golf Association member then thanked God, RGA, and his family. "I thank God for being able to wake up every morning and when game time comes, I thank him that I'm able to play and go back home—win or lose, I'm happy because I'm still here," he said.

The Seniors Flight winner was Freddie Cataluna with a gross score of 75; Joe "Kamikazee" Camacho came in second with a 77 gross score; and Frank Sablan placed third with an 80 gross score.

In the A Flight, Peng Cheng Wu won first with a gross score of 80; Enoch Lim came in second with an 85 gross score; and Darion Jones was third place with an 86 .

Carl Hocog topped the B Flight with an 84 gross score; Anthony Tomokane was second with an 86; and Ben Pelisamen was third with an 87.

In the C Flight, Sung Chul Moon won first place with an 88 gross score; Anthony Muna was second at 89; and Matt Deets was third with an 91.

Results of the Ladies Flight, closest to the pin, accurate drive, and aggressive categories will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

LEIGH GASES

From left, Seniors Flight champion Freddie Cataluna and third place Frank Sablan pose with Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente during the awards ceremony of the 2023 MTEC Golf Classic at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday

JUST

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another three-run shot by Verlance Secharmidal.

They went on to score nine more unanswered runs until the last inning.

Dat's It 33, PayDayHao 17

It could've been Sunday night football instead of softball with Dat's It huge run-mercy ruled, 33-17 win over PayDayHao.

It was home runs galore as Dat's It's J.D. Dikito led with an impressive four home runs from five plate appearance; Rick Jones contributed three of his own; while Des Abraham, and T.J. Cruz hit two each, while Jon Welson and Derek Abraham each shot one out.

PayDayHao tried to keep up but waved the white flag after they could only come up with five in their last at-bat.

Results of the other games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

CHECKPOINT

From page 20

Santos boys were more than enough to blow the Rollers out of the court.

Chioni Dela Cruz added 13 points to the series of attacks by Checkpoint—with their biggest lead of the game at the end of the second quarter, 51-21.

The Rollers tried to get their boys back into business but none of them were solidly landing their shots. Gino Asauo tried to take the helm and steer them back on course with his 9 points, but was only assisted by another single digit effort from John Kae Raquepo with 8 markers.

By the end, Checkpoint had put a stop on the Rollers' game for a 42-point deficit, and claimed their fourth win in their current undefeated run.

Meanwhile, in The Game and Winners Group matchup last Saturday, The Game slipped past 85-72 for their second win.

Winners Group's Jeter Medina was a ball-to-basket magnet as he tried to lead his team with a game high 33 points. Ryan Llave also contributed from the 3-point line for 20 points—but the duo was overshadowed by The Games' teamwork and quick passing abilities.

The Game was down by 1 point heading into the second quarter, 14-15, but quickly regrouped and their lead only went up from there.

The Games' Ervin Villarin's 19 points and J.R. Galang's 18 complementing markers—along with the rest of the team's contribution gave them an edge. DJay Ong's crucial points from the free throw line and a big 3-pointer at the end of the game ensured their lead was big enough for the win.

Last Thursday, Lakay-New San Antonio Market won their second game as they defeated Long Shot, 75-64, in the masters division. The open division game was rescheduled.

In the second game last Saturday in the masters division, Blue Haus bagged their third win after they beat Win Pacific, 82-74. In the other open division games last Sunday, Choju finally won a game after they defeated Vik Team, 91-86; and Solid North took their third win after they defeated Home Smart, 77-68.

First Game

Checkpoint 93 – K. Santos 17, C. Santos 15, Dela Cruz 13, G. Camacho 8, Castillo 8, Flores 6, Sablan 6, Kim 6, Esmores 4, Castro 3, Yanto 3, J. Camacho 2, Quan 2.

670 Rollers 51 – Asauo 9, Raquepo 8, Norita 6, Pelisamen 6, Sablan 4, Ong 4, Cruz 4, Factor 2, Eugenio 2, Babauta 2, Viana 2, Laxamana 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-7, 51-21, 65-39, 93-51.

Second Game

The Game-Eats Easy 85 – Villarin 19, Galang 18, Sablan 8, Basa 8, Ong 7, Mizutani 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Chua 4, Ferrari 4, Fitial 3, Atalig 2.

Winners Group 72 – Medina 33, Llave 20, Romo 9, Mejarita 8, Flores 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-15, 44-25, 67-49, 85-72.

US falls to Lithuania but still qualifies for Paris Olympics.

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Sports

Swiatek's title defense and stay at No. 1 end with loss to Ostapenko.

PAGE 19

Just 4 Fun earns lopsided win against Saipal, 17-7

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It was over before it even started as Just 4 Fun's early first inning run-frenzy earned them a lopsided 17-7 win against Saipal in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

Saipal drew first blood with a home run by Dennis Cruz, followed by a two-run Troy Laniyo homer, and another run by Joe Kapileo to put them up 3-0.

But Just 4 Fun retaliated quickly as they overtook the lead, 7-3. Rich Salas delivered a three-RBI out-of-the-park shot—quickly backed up by solo shots from Chris Camacho and Poland Masaharu.

Pitcher Nate Camacho brought the heat with his pitches but also dealt with his smoldering bat as he hit a three-run home run in the next inning to make it 10-6.

Camacho proceeded to shut down Saipal's offense as he allowed only one more run in the fourth inning to Trey Aiken. Then, Camacho blasted another three-run homer in his team's next at-bat for a big 14-7 lead.

Two more runs came in for Just 4 Fun and it was more than enough to secure the win.

TuTuRamZ 20, Seaweed Vibes 12

TuTuRamZ's last-minute rally secured their win against Seaweed Vibes, 20-12.

Seaweed Vibes had a 1-run lead heading into the last inning, 12-11, but TuTuRamZ had other plans than losing.

Instead, TuTuRamZ scored nine runs off a grand slam by Jonavan Hernandez, a solo shot by Derek Aguon, and a two-RBI jack by P.J. Misa—which Seaweed Vibes could not reciprocate and settled for the disappointing loss.

No Excuse 16, Blue Jays 1

No Excuse blew the Blue Jays out of the sky, 16-1, in a run-mercy ruled game.

The only run from the Blue Jays came from E.J. Cabrera in the last inning as Jun Salalila knocked him in.

No Excuse's whole lineup, however, contributed to their team's runs. Seven came in the first inning from a three-run home run by Kiko Angailen and

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LEIGH GASES
Pitcher Nate Camacho gets the win for Just 4 Fun as he dominated on the mound and with the bat with two 3-run home runs against Saipal in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

Mangarero puts 'super' in Super Senior Flight

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Manny Mangarero is the Super Senior Flight winner of the 2023 Marianas Tourism Education Council Golf Classic last Saturday morning in the greens of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

After hitting a gross score of 80, he edged second place Richard Sablan and third place Joseph Sablan's 84 gross score for the Super Senior title.

On the front nine, the over 20-year golf veteran scored 41 and 39 on the back nine.

The 66-year-old said his best hole was on hole No. 5 where he fired a birdie from seven feet away on a par-5 hole.

On the opposite spectrum—

See MANGARERO on Page 19

LEIGH GASES
From left, winners of the Super Senior Flight including second place Richard Sablan, first place Manny Mangarero, and third place Joseph Sablan pose for a photo with Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente during the awards ceremony of the 2023 MTEC Golf Classic at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

Checkpoint, The Game put on clinic in Eagles caging

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Checkpoint and The Game-Eats Easy put on a show against their opponents in the open division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The undefeated Checkpoint team resumed their rescheduled game last Sunday and defeated the 670 Rollers in a blowout, 93-51, for their fourth straight win.

Although they first played last Monday, Checkpoint got back on track and carried their momentum to still win the game six days later thanks to the help of Keith Santos and Coby Santos.

Keith Santos scored 17 points while Coby Santos wasn't too far behind with 15 markers of his own. The double-digit haymakers of the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Game-Eats Easy team poses for a photo after their 85-72 win against the Winners Group last Saturday night in the open division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.